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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 23 February 1990, at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

CONTENTS

MID-TERM REVIEWS OF COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES (*continued*)

THE ROLE OF UNDP IN COMBATING THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTION (HIV) AND AIDS (*continued*)

MID-TERM REVIEW OF RESOURCES (*continued*)

OTHER MATTERS (*continued*)

Annex to Governing Council decision 89/23 of 30 June 1989 on the annual report of the Administrator (*continued*)

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CONTENTS (continued)

Preparations for the fifth programming cycle (continued)

Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (continued)

UNDP management study (continued)

Agency support costs (continued)

Meeting of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

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The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

MID-TERM REVIEWS OF COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES (continued) (DP/1990/L.7)

1. The PRESIDENT, drawing attention to the document entitled "Report by the President on the work of the Committee of the Whole (DP/1990/L.7), said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the recommendations made in paragraph 8 of that report.

2. It was so decided.

THE ROLE OF UNDP IN COMBATING THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTION (HIV) AND AIDS (continued)

Draft decision DP/1990/L.5

3. Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe), reporting in his capacity as Vice-President, on the outcome of informal consultations, said that agreement had been reached on the text of the draft decision. He recommended the Council to adopt it by consensus.

4. Mr. KIRDAR (Secretary of the Council) pointed out that, according to paragraph 7, the Administrator should report on the subject at the special session in 1991. In fact, the intention was to devote that session - if it was held - to country programmes. He wondered, therefore, whether it would not be wiser to have the Administrator report to the Council at the regular session in June 1991. If the Council accepted that suggestion, paragraph 7 would read: "Requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at the regular session in 1991 on the implementation of this decision."

5. Mr. LEMERLE (France) said that the word "endorses" in paragraph 2 of the draft decision was incorrectly translated as "se félicite" in French; the Secretariat should make the necessary correction.

6. Draft decision DP/1990/L.5, as orally amended, was adopted.

MID-TERM REVIEW OF RESOURCES (continued)

Draft decision DP/1990/L.8

7. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), reporting in his capacity as Vice-President on the outcome of informal consultations, said that consensus had been reached on the wording of the draft decisions submitted to the Council. There was one omission in the second line of paragraph 12: the phrase "by the economic and social committees of the United Nations in the context" should be added after the word "activities".

8. Mr. AL AFIL (Observer for Democratic Yemen) made two comments on paragraph 10 of the draft decision, which concerned his country. In document DP/1990/7, part two, section IV, entitled "Disaster relief to Democratic Yemen", paragraph 21

READEX FICHE

(Mr. Al Afil, Observer, Democratic Yemen)

suggested that Yemen had received assistance in excess of the established ceiling. In fact, the ceiling had been raised following the adoption of decision 89/37 (Mid-term resource situation: Assistance to Democratic Yemen) and now stood at $1.1 million. The impression given was that the ceiling was $400,000 but Democratic Yemen had received over $616,000 more. He asked the Secretariat to make the necessary corrections in future reports. Moreover, in the light of resolution 89/37, paragraph 1, which read: "Requests the Administrator to consider the provision of additional assistance to Democratic Yemen from the Special Programme Resources beyond the normally authorized amount", his delegation would have liked a separate draft resolution confirming that request. As that did not seem possible, he suggested adding a new paragraph to draft decision DP/1990/L.8, to read: "Again requests the Administrator to consider the provision of additional assistance to Democratic Yemen from the Special Programme Resources beyond the normally authorized amount", on the understanding that the provision would not be mandatory, and action on it would be left to the discretion of the Administrator.

9. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, the new paragraph proposed by the delegation of Democratic Yemen would be added after paragraph 10 of the draft decision.

10. It was so decided.

11. Draft decision DP/1990/L.8, as orally amended, was adopted.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

Draft decision DP/1990/L.10

12. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), reporting in his capacity as Vice-President on the outcome of informal consultations, said that the text of the draft decision had been endorsed by the delegations taking part in the consultations. He suggested that the Council should adopt it by consensus.

13. Draft decision DP/1990/L.10 was adopted.

Annex to Governing Council decision 89/23 of 30 June 1989 on the annual report of the Administrator (continued)

Draft decision DP/1990/L.11

14. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), introducing the draft decision in his capacity as Vice-President, said that it had been decided during informal consultations to recommend that consideration of the annex to Governing Council decision 89/23 should be postponed to the thirty-seventh session, and to submit draft decision DP/1990/L.11 to that effect. He recommended the Council to adopt the draft decision by consensus.

15. Draft decision DP/1990/L.11 was adopted.

Preparations for the fifth programming cycle (continued)

Draft decision DP/1990/L.9

16. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) said that some amendments had been made to the draft decision during the informal consultations. It had been proposed to replace, in paragraph 3, the phrase after the words "positions on" by the phrase "the level, use and distribution of resources in the fifth cycle". In paragraph 4, after the words "a synopsis of the" the words "views expressed and" should be inserted; and the phrase following "centrally managed resources," should be replaced by the phrases "taking into consideration all the views expressed regarding Special Programme Resources and the question of net contributor status, and to make recommendations for proposals thereon, and to report to the members of the Programme. ...". In paragraph 6, the date "23 April 1990" should be replaced by "30 April 1990". Paragraph 7 would be entirely reworded to read:

> "*Requests* the Administrator to include in the material he is preparing for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council (1990) information on the availability and coverage of data on the factors which currently feature in the supplementary criteria, and on gross domestic product, life expectancy, literacy rates, output of manufacturing, availability of depletable and non-renewable resources, the latest data on economies in transition, external debt related to gross national product, the relationship between debt service payment and exports, net transfer of resources, and any other indices which will form part of the human development report."

17. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Observer for Algeria) observed that it had been agreed that the text on preparations for the fifth programming cycle would be a procedural text only, and it was on that basis that his delegation and most others had participated in the consultations. However, the proposed amendments to draft decision DP/1990/L.9 bore on substantive questions, thus prejudging the outcome of the deliberations of the Council's thirty-seventh session. His delegation had already had occasion to express its point of view on the social indicators of development and on the report on human development. It noted that its concerns had not been taken into account. It therefore asked for an opportunity to review the proposed amendments rapidly with their sponsors. In order to save time, the Council could in the mean time move on to other questions on its agenda.

18. Mr. AQUARONE (Netherlands) said that he wished to reassure the representative of Algeria. The draft was a consensus text that had been drawn up with much effort and did not lend itself to last-minute modifications. Its sponsors did not consider that the criteria referred to necessarily had to be taken into account in the allocation of fifth-cycle resources. The draft satisfied a number of concerns and in no way prejudged the deliberations of the thirty-seventh session.

19. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that the draft text did not take account of Mauritania's concerns. He therefore joined the representative of Algeria in asking for further consultations. The data being requested were important and without them it would be difficult to take informed decisions when the fifth cycle was

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(Mr. El Ghaouth, Mauritania)

considered. The first statistic requested by Mauritania had to do with gross domestic product and not gross national product, the latter being a function of the GDP.

20. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Observer for Algeria) said in response to the delegation of the Netherlands that for the moment it was not possible to speak of a consensus because some problems remained. He insisted on the need to devote a few more minutes to the consideration of the draft, with the aim of resolving those problems and reaching a true consensus.

21. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Observer for Mongolia) supported the Algerian proposal.

22. The PRESIDENT asked Mr. Babington to proceed immediately to hold consultations with the delegations that had expressed objections to the draft text.

23. Mr. KIRDAR (Secretary of the Council), drawing attention to paragraph 6 of the draft decision and the amendment deferring informal consultations on issues pertaining to the fifth cycle to the week of 30 April, observed that since provision had not been made for them in the schedule of meetings, such consultations could be held only if the necessary services were available. He therefore proposed finding some other wording, replacing the word "Decides" for instance, by the phrase "Decides if possible" or "Requests". As for deferring the informal consultations to 30 April, he drew attention to the fact that the date of the special session of the General Assembly on development had not been set, but that it might begin on 30 April. Moreover, a meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to be attended by the secretariat heads of United Nations bodies, among them the UNDP Administrator, was scheduled for 2 May 1990. If the informal consultations in fact took place during the week of 30 April, the Administrator would probably not be able to take part in them.

24. Mr. LEMERLE (France) said that the date of 30 April was not convenient for the French delegation, not only because of the uncertainty of the date of the special session of the General Assembly but also because the members of his delegation had other engagements for that period. He asked that the possibility of deferring the consultations to the following week be considered.

25. Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Observer for Bahrain) pointed out that since the week of 23 April coincided with the end of the month of Ramadan and the celebration of the feast of Id al-Fitr, it would not be fair to hold those important informal consultations at that time because the delegations from Muslim countries would not be able to take part.

26. Mr. LANGENBACHER (Switzerland) said that if it was not possible to come to an agreement before the end of the meeting on the wording of draft decision DP/1990/L.9, perhaps, as the President had proposed, consideration should be given to deleting the passages that were not unanimous.

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Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Draft decision DP/1990/L.6

27. MR. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe) said that very lengthy consultations had been held on the draft decision and that consensus had still not been reached on paragraph 2. At that point, however, he was in a position to propose certain non-substantive amendments: in the second preambular paragraph, the word "average" should be deleted; in paragraph 4, the brackets should be deleted together with the words "*Requests* that these countries receive", and the word "development" in the second line should be replaced by the word "programming", so that the beginning of paragraph 4 would now read: "*Expresses* the desire that these countries shall receive during the fifth programming cycle", and the remainder of the paragraph would be left as it stood; in paragraph 7, the words "originally allocated" in the third line should be deleted.

28. He then read out the amendments to paragraph 2 which were still under consultation with a view to consensus. It had been proposed to delete the brackets and to insert in the second line, after the phrase "a role to play", the phrase "in the development process of the developing countries and a special role". The clause "its commitment in those countries should be emphasized" was to be replaced by the clause "and this should be reflected in its commitment". Paragraph 2 would thus read: "*Stresses* that the United Nations Development Programme has a role to play in the development process of the developing countries and a special role in the least developed countries and that this should be reflected in its commitment during the fifth programming cycle;".

29. Mr. GRAHAM (United States of America) said that a consensus had been reached on paragraph 5 and it had been decided that the word "increased" should be deleted from the third line. That word must be deleted.

30. Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe) said that he had overlooked the fact that that word should be deleted. He wished to confirm what the representative of the United States had just said.

31. Mr. GEPP (Brazil), supported by Mr. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba), said that paragraph 2, whose deletion his delegation had proposed, was not the only paragraph that gave rise to problems. Paragraph 4 should also be deleted, since it did not reflect what had been decided at the Brasilia and Caracas meetings in the context of the Latin American economic system. Paragraphs 2 and 4 gave rise to difficulties not only for his delegation but for most delegations in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

32. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), supported by Mr. DUHALT (Observer for Mexico), Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Observer for Mongolia) and Mr. TALAVERA (Peru), said that his delegation had the same difficulties as those mentioned by Brazil. The Governing Council must not prejudge decisions to be taken in June, when the fifth programming cycle was considered. Paragraphs 2 and 4 should therefore be deleted.

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33. Mr. LANGENBACHER (Switzerland) said that he had taken part in the ongoing negotiations. The text submitted by Mr. Hamadziripi faithfully reflected the ongoing discussions and represented a narrowing of the differences between delegations.

34. Mr. AMAZIANE (Observer for Morocco) said that some delegations were being very inconsistent. In the general debate all delegations had expressed solidarity with the least developed countries (LDCs) and called for special treatment for them. However, when it came to translating that solidarity into action, some delegations were calling for the deletion of paragraphs 2 and 4, an approach that was entirely unacceptable. Where paragraph 5 was concerned, in the second line of the French text the word "appropriés" should be placed after the word "ressources", and not after the word "programmes", so that the phrase in question read: "par des programmes et des ressources appropriés".

35. Mr. KABIR (Observer for Bangladesh) said that it was surprising that after lengthy discussions paragraphs 2 and 4 should be considered unacceptable by some delegations. Those two paragraphs were the manifestation of the support for the LDCs that had emerged in the course of the discussions in question. His delegation was willing to take part in informal consultations on the subject.

36. Mr. LUCAS (Guyana) said that his delegation was willing to continue informal consultations on the paragraph in dispute.

37. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that he was surprised that a delegation of a developing country should arrogate to itself the right to make a regrettable statement on behalf of a group of developing countries, and to try to set up as an obstacle to their interests the interests of another group of developing countries. The members of the Group of 77 had repeatedly stressed the need for active solidarity among developing countries. Draft decision DP/1990/L.6 was not being submitted by the developing countries but, by the least developed countries, and it was regrettable that developing countries should formally oppose it. That approach represented a threat to solidarity among developing countries at a time when the Group of 77 was preparing a joint strategy for the special session of the General Assembly to take place in April. The draft decision could be adopted as submitted by Mr. Hamadziripi.

38. Miss NCHAPI (Observer for Lesotho) said that she was shocked and concerned at the trend that seemed to be developing in respect of the least developed countries, which were also the most vulnerable countries. She found it particularly hard to understand some delegation's remarks in view of the fact that various United Nations decisions and resolutions, especially Governing Council decision 89/20 and General Assembly resolution 44/211, recommended that increased resources should be made available to the least developed countries. Her delegation called on the members of the Council to support draft resolution DP/1990/L.6 as originally drafted.

39. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Observer for Liberia) said that he whole-heartedly supported the statement made by the Observer for Lesotho and wished to propose a solution

where paragraph 2 was concerned. The current text of paragraph 2 should end with the words "Least Developed Countries", and a new paragraph 2 bis reproducing the text of General Assembly resolution 44/211, paragraph 4, should be drafted: "Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries". Moreover, in the second line of paragraph 4 of draft decision DP/1990/L.6 the words "a larger share" should be replaced by the words "a proportional share".

40. Mr. KING (Observer for Trinidad and Tobago) said that paragraphs 2 and 4 did indeed prejudge decisions to be adopted on the fifth programming cycle. However, it should be possible to find wording that would maintain solidarity with the least developed countries without prejudging those decisions. His delegation was willing to take part in informal negotiations with a view to finding an appropriate formula.

41. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) said that, as pointed out by the Observers for Lesotho and Liberia, there was a General Assembly resolution on the subject, whose wording should be used in the draft decision before the Council.

42. Mr. ALMABROUK (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he was taken aback by the statements made by some developing countries. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, itself a developing country, believed that all developing countries should display solidarity with the least developed countries. As a member of the Group of 77, it appealed to all delegations, particularly those that had voiced objections to paragraphs 2 and 4, to take action to ensure that the decision could be adopted by consensus.

43. Mr. SALES (Mozambique) suggested that informal consultations should be held.

44. The PRESIDENT said that it ought to be possible to reach a consensus on the basis of the proposal made by the Observer for Liberia. At the current stage there were three solutions: paragraphs 2 and 4 could be retained, amended or deleted.

45. Mr. EL GAOUTH (Mauritania) said that he supported the appeal for solidarity made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and called upon delegations to adopt a text without holding further consultations.

46. Mr. RONDON (Venezuela), referring to the problems raised by paragraphs 2 and 4 of the draft decision where a number of Latin American delegations were concerned, said that, while he by no means wished to break with the traditional solidarity of the Group of 77 with the least developed countries, he none the less considered it impossible to adopt a text prejudging the outcome of UNDP's thirty-seventh session. Brief informal consultations should enable delegations to reach the consensus that he too was most anxious to achieve.

47. The PRESIDENT suggested that delegations should adopt the text proposed by the Vice-President.

48. Mr. GEPP (Brazil) said that his position remained unchanged. Informal consultations should be held on the subject, and in the mean time the Council should move on to consideration of another item.

49. The PRESIDENT invited Mr. Hamadziripi (Zimbabwe) to preside over further informal consultations and in the mean time to proceed with his report on agenda item 9 (b) entitled "UNDP management study".

UNDP management study (continued)

Draft declaration

50. Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe) read out a text which had been the subject of lengthy consultations, and proposed that it should be included in the report of the special session of the Governing Council:

> "At the request of a member of the Governing Council, an item was included in the agenda of the special session to allow the Administrator to bring to the attention of the members of the Programme an internal management study prepared by outside consultants. The Governing Council heard a statement by the Administrator on the study as well as the views expressed by members of the Programme thereon. The Administrator reaffirms that any recommendation of the study falling outside his management prerogatives would be implemented only after consultation with the Governing Council."

51. The draft declaration was adopted.

52. The PRESIDENT invited Mr. Babington (Australia) to announce the results of the informal consultations which had been held on draft decision DP/1990/L.9.

Draft decision DP/1990/L.9

53. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) said that agreement had been reached on the two points which had been left in abeyance. In paragraph 6, the words "during the week commencing 23 April 1990" should be replaced by the words "during the first half of May 1990". Paragraph 7 should read as follows:

> "Requests the Administrator to include in the material he is preparing for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council (1990), information on the availability and coverage of data on the factors which currently feature in the supplementary criteria, as well as other factors such as on gross domestic product, gross national product, output of manufacturing, availability of depletable and non-renewable resources, the latest data on economies in transition, external debt related to gross national product, relationship between debt-service payment and exports, net transfer of resources and any other appropriate indicators."

54. Draft decision DP/1990/L.9, as orally revised, was adopted.

55. Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Bahrain), supported by Mr. AL-SAMEEN (Oman), said that his delegation did not oppose the adoption of the draft decision but that the position of Bahrain remained unchanged because of the problems which the text posed for island countries.

Agency support costs (continued)

Draft decision DP/1990/L.12

56. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) said that the draft decision, which he was recommending for adoption by the Governing Council, had been the subject of lengthy consultations with interested delegations.

57. Mr. REYES (Philippines) said that, for purposes of clarification, several delegations wished to make a number of amendments to the text. In the second line of paragraph 4, it had been proposed that the words "from members countries of the Council" should be replaced by the words "from member countries of the Programme, on the basis of proportional geographic distribution of the membership of the Council,"; the rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged. It had also been proposed to add a paragraph 4 bis, which would read as follows:

> "Emphasizes the desirability of participation by these 10 advisers, referred to in paragraph 4 above, who should be knowledgeable about the operations of the United Nations development system, to ensure that the work of the informal consultations results in a clearer view of the implications of various options recommended by the Group of Experts."

58. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that he could not support the proposed amendment. The position of his delegation on the draft decision was well known. He hoped that the informal consultations would continue.

59. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) said that he understood the position of the representative of Mauritania. He hoped that it would be possible to find an acceptable formulation.

60. Mr. OGAWA (Japan) said that he believed that the text proposed by Mr. Babington was a balanced compromise formula, and appealed to the representative of Mauritania to accept the proposed amendment.

61. Mr. SALAZAR-SANCISI (Observer for Ecuador) supported the representative of Japan. In his opinion, the amendment which had been read out by Mr. Reyes would ensure that consultations would be conducted by competent persons.

62. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that his position remained unchanged. At the current stage in the debate, he could see three possibilities: the controversial paragraphs could be deleted, the question could be postponed until the Council's June session, or informal consultations could be continued. In his opinion, the earlier consultations had not been sufficiently transparent.

63. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) said that the text had been accepted by all delegations except one. In such cases, it was always possible for the delegation which had reservations to refrain from joining the consensus.

64. The PRESIDENT, supported by Ms. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America) and Mr. REYES (Philippines), appealed to the representative of Mauritania to take account of the opinions of delegations which were in favour of the text.

65. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that the Governing Council should abide by the rules in force and that he maintained his position; he requested that the informal consultations should be continued.

66. The PRESIDENT proposed that the meeting should be suspended briefly so that consultations on the draft decision could be held. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Governing Council agreed to his proposal.

67. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 7.40 p.m. and resumed at 8.05 p.m.

68. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) announced that, as a result of the consultations which had just been held, a new amendment had been proposed which took the concerns of Mauritania into consideration. A new paragraph, 8 bis, would be added; it would read as follows:

> "Authorizes the Administrator to facilitate the participation of officials from least developed countries, members of the Governing Council, who are responsible for technical co-operation activities, to attend the open-ended consultations. The costs of this participation will be covered from the support-cost line."

69. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision DP/1990/L.12, as orally revised by the representative of Australia.

70. It was so decided.

71. Draft decision DP/1990/L.12, as orally revised, was adopted.

72. Mr. PETTITT (United Kingdom) said that he had agreed to join the consensus because the draft decision contained important elements. However, the text did not reflect the wish of his delegation, which was to see the governing bodies of the partners of UNDP participate fully in decision-making through an exchange of views with the Bureau before June 1990. That was all the more regrettable since most of the governing bodies would not be able to consider the question before the Governing Council took decisions on future arrangements. He hoped that the members of the Council would do everything within their power, both collectively and individually, to give the heads of secretariat of the executing agencies the opportunity - in spite of the calendar which had just been adopted - to consider

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(Mr. Pettitt, United Kingdom)

the implementation of future arrangements, in order to facilitate the achievement of the consensus requested in paragraph 9 of draft decision DP/1990/L.12.

73. Ms. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America) endorsed the statement which the representative of the United Kingdom had just made. In her opinion, it was very important to establish good working relations with the partners of UNDP. The informal consultations had shown that developing countries were not satisfied with the *status quo*. Her delegation, too, was not satisfied with the current arrangements. UNDP and its partners should endeavour to develop viable arrangements which would not exist only on paper, which was often the case, but which would become a reality.

74. Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe) reported on consultations which had been held with several delegations regarding draft decision L.6. The following new wording had been proposed for paragraph 2 of the draft decision:

> "*Emphasizes* that the United Nations Development Programme has an important role to play in the least developed countries and that its commitment in these countries should continue to be adequately reflected in its activities;"

Paragraph 4 had been modified as follows:

> "*Stresses* the need for priority allocation of its scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in the least developed countries on the basis of their special needs and requirements;"

75. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision L.6 as orally revised by the representative of Zimbabwe.

76. *It was so decided.*

77. *Draft decision DP/1990/L.6, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Meeting of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole

78. The PRESIDENT said that the Council must also decide on the meeting of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole. The decisions which had just been adopted implied that the Working Group would have to hold several meetings, probably in May, in order to prepare for the fifth cycle and to examine the question of the support costs of executing agencies as well as questions arising from decision 89/20. First, however, it was necessary to decide whether the Working Group should meet. The delegations had seemed to indicate that it should.

79. *It was so decided.*

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80. The PRESIDENT invited the Governing Council to suggest topics which the Working Group should address.

81. Ms. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America) recalled that at the previous session the United States delegation had, with the support of other delegations, suggested several topics which the Working Group might consider. It had been recommended that the Working Group examine the question of special programme resources (SPR), together with that of multinational and interregional IPFs, within the framework of preparations for the review of the fifth programming cycle in June. The second topic submitted for consideration had been the procedure for conducting mid-term reviews of country programmes. The third topic had been the role of the specialized agencies in providing programme support or sectoral support. A fourth proposed topic for discussion had been the role of UNDP in providing disaster relief and aid to refugees and displaced persons.

82. Mr. PETTITT (United Kingdom) said that in his delegation's opinion the Working Group should concentrate on two questions, namely, the question of special programme resources (SPR) and that of the procedure for conducting mid-term reviews of country programmes.

83. Mr. VARADACHARY (India) expressed surprise at the speed with which the decision to convene a Working Group had been made. His delegation did not see how such a meeting could be useful, since the schedule for the period between the current special session and the Governing Council's session in June was already extremely full. Furthermore, experience had shown that mid-term review of programmes by persons having no knowledge of how those programmes were executed was an exercise in futility.

84. Mr. SALAZAR-SANCIZI (Observer for Ecuador) proposed that the Working Group should examine a question to which developing countries attached very great importance, namely, the possibility of increasing the IPFs of those countries by considering them as seed money. His delegation hoped that the practical experience of countries where such an approach had been adopted would be examined.

85. Mr. PETTITT (United Kingdom) expressed support for the suggestion made by the representative of Ecuador. If the Working Group was to confine itself to two questions, then his delegation would be willing to abandon the question of special programme resources and retain only the question of the procedure to be followed in mid-term reviews of projects and programmes and the question proposed by the representative of Ecuador.

86. Ms. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America), responding to the Indian delegation's objections, said it had not been proposed that the Working Group should consider the programmes themselves but merely the procedure to be followed for reviewing them mid-term. Moreover, the United States delegation was quite willing to show flexibility by retaining both the question proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom and that proposed by the observer for Ecuador.

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87. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Observer for Algeria) expressed great disappointment at the manner in which the special session's proceedings had unfolded. Although Algeria's mid-term programme review had been an item on the session's agenda, only one delegation had referred to the programme. The Algerian delegation had hoped to be able to hear the views of member States on the status of Algeria's programme, in the expectation that those views would be very useful for his country. Such a review had not occurred. As a result of that bitter experience, the Algerian delegation wondered whether there was any point in repeating the exercise within the framework of a meeting of the Working Group.

88. Mr. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba) said that his delegation had decided to support the decision to convene a meeting of the Working Group, although it did not favour the idea. His delegation believed that the Working Group should examine two questions, namely, the role of the specialized agencies in providing programme support and the procedure for conducting mid-term reviews of country programmes.

89. The PRESIDENT, noting that views seemed to differ on the question of which topics the Working Group should address, suggested that the Governing Council should interrupt its work for a short period in order to conduct informal consultations. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council supported his suggestion.

90. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 8.45 p.m. and resumed at 9.25 p.m.

91. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), reporting on the informal consultations which had just taken place under his guidance, said that it had been proposed that the Working Group meet for one day, before consultations on the support costs of organizations, to examine "the role of the specialized and technical agencies in providing programme support to UNDP-funded activities: technical analysis and advice".

92. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to request that the Committee of the Whole should entrust to the Working Group the task of considering the question which the Australian representative had just specified. He suggested that the Council, in conformity with established procedure, should transform itself immediately into the Committee of the Whole.

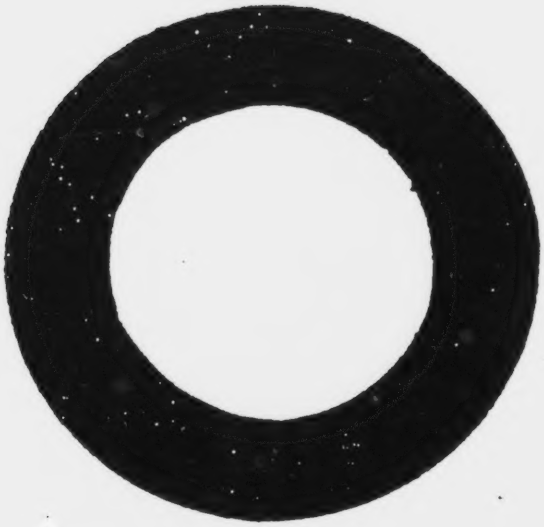
93. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 9.25 p.m. and resumed at 9.30 p.m.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

94. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 9.35 p.m.



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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 28 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

CONTENTS

Opening of the session

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

United Nations Population Fund

(a) Special report to the General Assembly through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council

(b) Report of the Executive Director on 1989 activities

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council and welcomed its members. At the current session, the Council would consider a number of important items that would affect the future course of technical co-operation provided through the United Nations system. He was confident that, with the co-operation of the members of the Council and the observers, constructive decisions could be taken to enable UNDP to maintain and enhance its central role in promoting the development efforts of the developing countries and improving living conditions in the world as a whole.

2. Mr. JOSEPH (Associate Administrator), speaking on behalf of the Administrator, Mr. Draper, welcomed the participants to the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council. The current session must reach major policy decisions on matters that would chart the course of the Programme for many years to come. He was confident that perserverance and a spirit of consensus would continue to prevail, and he pledged full UNDP support and assistance to the Council in its deliberations.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK (agenda item 2) (DP/1990/L.4 and Corr.1 and 2; DP/1990/14-16)

3. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in documents DP/1990/L.4 and Corr.1 and 2.

4. It was so decided.

5. Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), referring to Governing Council decision 90/1 reaffirming that the Budgetary and Finance Committee would also review the financial implications of draft decisions before the Council itself took action thereon, inquired whether all draft decisions would be reviewed or only those with financial implications.

6. Mr. KIRDAR (Secretary of the Governing Council) said that the Budgetary and Finance Committee would review financial implications only if there were any. The Drafting Group could not take a decision when there were financial implications.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (agenda item 6)

(a) SPECIAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (DP/1990/44)

(b) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1989 ACTIVITIES (DP/1990/45, Parts I, II and III; DP/1990/46, Parts I and II)

7. Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) said that although 1989 had witnessed encouraging progress in reducing political conflicts and in strengthening the independence of nations, it had

also been a year of growing concern over the pervasive poverty and human misery that persisted in so many developing countries and the alarming degradation of the planet's environment. As environmental issues had moved to the forefront of discussions on development, there had been unprecedented awareness of the negative impact of rapid population growth and uneven population distribution. The International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam in November 1989, and many other bodies had clearly established that population issues were key elements in achieving sustainable development and environmental protection.

8. There was an urgent need to ensure that the 1990s did not become another "lost decade" for the poor countries of the South. Decisive action could help turn the tide for generations to come. If sustained and sustainable development was to become a reality in the years ahead, efforts to link effective population activities with social, economic and environmental programmes must be stepped up significantly. UNFPA hoped that the Council would provide guidance on meeting the enormous challenges of the 1990s and expressed its profound gratitude for the Council's continued strong support.

9. One of several disturbing features of current population patterns was the pace of population growth. According to the most recent United Nations estimates, global population in the year 2000 would be over 6.2 billion, 129 million higher than the 1984 projection. The 8.5 billion now projected for the year 2025 was some 300 million higher than previously predicted. Despite considerable success in reducing fertility in the developing countries, rates were declining more slowly than had been expected. Efforts to reduce the pace of population growth must thus be intensified. The situation in the least developed countries was of particular concern. In sub-Saharan Africa, population growth rates exceeded 3 per cent per annum, and were not expected to fall until the end of the century. The combined effects of populations expanding too rapidly, an unfavourable age structure, continued economic stagnation and debilitating debt levels were preventing any real and sustained economic or social progress by such countries.

10. UNFPA's state of world population report 1990 stressed how the choices made over the next 10 years would decide the speed of population growth for much of the next century, which, in turn, would affect every aspect of human development. It was thus comforting to note that more and more countries perceived population as a serious issue, and were formulating policies and programmes to influence levels of fertility, mortality and migration. The population objectives and programme priorities set forth in the Amsterdam Declaration adopted by the 79 countries participating in the Amsterdam Forum, and endorsed by the General Assembly, provided an excellent illustration of the growing consensus. However, much greater international attention should be accorded to population issues in policy and strategy instruments, particularly in the new International Development Strategy for the 1990s, the second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Every part of the United Nations system and all sectors of the national economy must give explicit attention to the population dimension.

11. To be successful, population programmes must be reinforced and complemented by other sectors of national development plans, such as action to improve the status of women, and the creation and maintenance of the

infrastructure needed for the execution of the programmes. Ultimately, their success depended to a large extent on provision of more family planning information and services, based particularly on socio-cultural studies and community involvement.

12. The United Nations International Meeting on Population in 1994 would provide a much-needed opportunity to review progress in the field at the mid-point in the decade. As well as identifying new substantive issues requiring further attention and facilitating the exchange and application of knowledge gained, it would help consolidate the international community's commitment to population considerations at that crucial juncture. With regard to preparations for the 1994 Meeting, including the twenty-sixth session of the Population Commission, the Steering Committee on Population had met under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and had recommended to the Secretary-General a number of initial steps regarding organization of the Meeting. The Secretary-General had appointed the Executive Director of UNFPA as Secretary-General of the Meeting and the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs as Deputy-Secretary-General.

13. She drew attention to some of the 26 documents submitted by UNFPA which would be introduced individually later in the session. Summaries of those documents were contained in an information paper available in English, French and Spanish. The documents dealt, inter alia, with the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration and efforts to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, and with the work plan for the years 1991-1994. She appealed to the Governing Council to take a positive decision on the question of the classification of six senior posts referred to in document DP/1990/52 on the senior management structure of UNFPA.

14. Summarizing the UNFPA programme in 1989, she said that while UNFPA's financial situation remained firm, it was only through substantially increased resources that the growing demands of countries could be met. Contributions in 1989 had totalled $US 180.7 million, an increase of 8 per cent over 1988. Income had totalled $US 185.2 million, an increase of 4 per cent. That relatively modest increase in dollar terms was attributable mainly to unfavourable exchange rates, which had offset fairly substantial increases in contributions in currencies other than the United States dollar. The 98 donors in 1989 had included two first-time donors, Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu. Twenty-six countries had increased their contributions by 5 per cent or more. The 50 per cent increase in the contribution by the Government of Finland and the doubling of the contribution by the Government of France were particularly gratifying, as was the additional contribution of approximately $US 5 million from the Government of the Netherlands. Cumulative pledges up to the end of 1989, from a cumulative total of 151 donors, had totalled $US 2.0 billion. The trend for contributions in 1990 continued to be upwards and was estimated at $US 197.0 million, an increase of 9 per cent over 1989. Twenty-four countries had increased their contributions by more than 10 per cent, in the currency of their pledge. The continued support of the Fund's major donors - Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Italy, critical in enabling UNFPA to address the many challenges that lay ahead, was gratefully acknowledged.

15. It was deeply regrettable that in 1989 the United States Government had once again chosen not to make a contribution, and that it had not contributed since 1985. The Fund's ability to respond to developing countries' growing needs for population assistance was thereby diminished, as was the international consensus on population issues.

16. Project allocations had increased from $US 169 million in 1988 to $US 194.2 million in 1989, an increase of 15 per cent. Project expenditure had increased even more, from $US 130 million in 1988 to $US 157 million in 1989, an increase of 21 per cent. The project expenditure/allocation ratio had thus improved significantly from 76.8 per cent in 1988 to 81 per cent in 1989. There had been a similar improvement in the resource utilization rate (expenditure divided by programmable resources approved by the Governing Council), provisionally estimated at 88.7 per cent in 1989 compared with 81.0 per cent in 1988. There had also been a substantial reduction in carry-forwards, from approximately $US 32 million at the end of 1988, to only $US 8.5 million at the end of 1989, enabling UNFPA to make effective use of substantially larger resources.

17. At 74.6 per cent in 1989 compared with 73.5 per cent in 1988, allocations to priority countries had shown a modest increase. Family planning and associated information, education and communication activities had continued to receive the largest share of UNFPA's programme resources (over 63 per cent). Allocations to sub-Saharan Africa had continued to increase substantially in both volume and percentage terms. Expenditure for administrative and programme support services, including Headquarters and field services, had been $US 32.1 million, or 17.3 per cent of the total estimated income for 1989, compared with $US 26.7 million or 15.2 per cent in 1988. The ratio of project expenditure to administrative expenditure had thus remained stable, with both categories of expenditure increasing by 22 per cent.

18. Parts I, II and III of the annual report of the executive director (DP/1990/45) detailed features of the 1989 UNFPA Programme in areas such as poverty and population, socio-cultural research in population programmes, technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), UNFPA staff training and the 1989 UNFPA global meeting of staff, activities in the field of women, population and development, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. However, in view of time constraints, she proposed to focus on selected issues directly related to achieving self-reliance in population programmes by strengthening national capability in that area.

19. While a foundation for national self-reliance in population programmes had been established in many countries, in most of them it represented a bare beginning, and much more needed to be done in order to establish and institutionalize national capability for programme implementation. The procedures for the provision of assistance must be carefully examined and amended, as outlined in the Director General's triennial review of operational activities and in General Assembly resolution 44/211, a landmark resolution whose timely implementation UNFPA had fully supported on various occasions. National capacity-building called for a critical examination of the roles and performance of all parties involved, bringing to the task at hand a multidisciplinary perspective and a longer-term, comprehensive vision. As a

step in that direction, and in line with its new programme directions, the Fund had revised its programming procedures with a view to attaining a more analytical and strategic approach. A key element in the change of emphasis was the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise which UNFPA conducted together with Governments; the purpose of the exercise was to establish a concrete strategic framework for a country's population programme, on the basis of an in-depth review of the achievements of, and constraints on, current population activities and the needs for future action.

20. UNFPA was giving special attention to training issues in the population field, and a number of training-needs assessments were under way. As a follow-up to the review and assessment study, the Amsterdam Forum and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Meeting on Population, the Fund would organize a meeting of interested parties to exchange information on training in maternal and child health and family planning, including management and communication issues. A paper containing additional information on that meeting was available.

21. Another important element in improved population assistance was the need to strengthen the accessibility and effectiveness of technical and substantive support to countries. UNFPA strongly endorsed the principle of working in partnership with Governments and the United Nations specialized agencies. It would continue its close co-operation with all parts of the United Nations system, drawing on the agencies' extensive knowledge and experience. Such co-operation also provided an excellent opportunity to encourage other organizations to include population in their regular activities.

22. The Fund broadly agreed with the observation of the Expert Group that the current arrangement for technical support services provided by the United Nations system had not adequately met the requirements of developing countries. It also fully endorsed national execution as the ultimate aim of United Nations technical assistance programmes, and agreed with the other substantive conclusions of the study, which in fact reinforced UNFPA's own moves towards decentralization and the comprehensive programme approach.

23. In looking at support-cost arrangements, UNFPA must consider how best to meet the technical backstopping requirements of developing countries while simultaneously continuing to build national self-reliance. A more comprehensive support scheme was needed, to include greater reliance on national expertise and institutions and continued use of the technical resources of specialized agencies and the United Nations. The Fund thus envisaged a support-cost arrangement drawing on features of the Expert Group's first two recommended options. The proposal had been informally discussed with the collaborating organizations, which were in general agreement with that approach.

24. UNFPA had a long history of promoting national execution of projects, as was reflected in the relatively large share of the overall UNFPA programme executed by Governments. However, a number of specific measures were needed to strengthen national execution of programmes and projects funded by UNFPA, while ensuring that existing achievements in strengthening local capacity were not jeopardized.

25. Good progress had been made in recruiting highly-qualified staff for the new field positions proposed to the Governing Council the previous year. With that strengthened field network, UNFPA would be better equipped to meet countries' needs for population assistance while building up local capacity.

26. Collaboration and co-ordination at both national and international levels would play a crucial role in strengthening national capability in population policy and programmes. Special efforts to strengthen co-ordination had been continued within UNFPA during the previous and current years. It had attempted to synchronize its programming cycles with those of Governments and other donors, particularly UNDP. To ensure that collaboration was addressed early on in the programming process, UNFPA field staff had been instructed to consult systematically with other organizations, especially its partners in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), during formulation of new programmes. Wherever possible, monitoring and evaluation exercises should be held in parallel or jointly with other donor organizations. In that regard, UNFPA had increased its collaboration with United Nations Volunteers, and many UNFPA projects now used highly-qualified United Nations volunteers. UNFPA also attached special importance to increasing collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Exemplary co-operation had been extended to UNFPA by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Executive Director of UNICEF had responded favourably to the proposal to issue a joint letter to all field staff, stressing the common goals shared by the three organizations in the area of maternal and child health and family planning, and requesting staff to collaborate closely in all programmes in that area. UNFPA welcomed the recent recommendations of the UNICEF Board in that regard, since they were in keeping with its concern that population and family planning issues should be reflected in the activities of all sectors and all organizations. In that context, UNFPA was concerned that the World Summit for Children should adequately address all issues of maternal and child health, including those related to birth spacing and family planning.

27. As population programmes were strengthened, the importance of co-ordination would also grow dramatically, as had been stressed at the Amsterdam Forum and the DAC Meeting on Population. It would be essential to further refine a mechanism for co-ordination of all international assistance for population programmes.

28. Other measures taken by UNFPA to improve the effectiveness of its programmes included increased decentralization of decision-making, particularly to field staff. In 1988 UNFPA had introduced various measures to facilitate the delegation of authority, and a start had been made in decentralizing programme development and appraisal, as well as some funding arrangements. UNFPA continued to review its experience with decentralization each year. Following an analysis of experience to date and requests by field staff further to expand the delegation of authority, it had again increased decentralization early in 1990, in line with General Assembly resolution 44/211. UNFPA country directors now had the authority to approve projects up to $US 500,000, with total approved funds up to 50 per cent of the total country programme. To ensure adequate implementation of decentralization, additional measures were needed to strengthen the technical expertise and managerial capacity of UNFPA staff. Field offices' access to national and international technical backstopping services, management information systems and networking capabilities must also be improved.

29. Closely related to the foregoing was the special emphasis placed on training of staff and improved personnel policies, including better recruitment practices, strengthened supervision, and redeployment and rotation of staff. The Fund considered development of its own human resources to be a key element in encouraging innovation and new ideas, upgrading skills and keeping abreast of new developments in the population field.

30. Following a review of the situation of women in the Fund, a number of recommendations on improving the recruitment, promotion and placement of female staff were to be implemented. Furthermore, considerable progress had been made in improving the relationship between UNDP and UNFPA in the field and arrangements for UNFPA field offices. With a view to continued improvement of the Fund's performance, the two senior assistants currently designated as Deputy and Assistant Executive Directors would henceforth be designated as Deputy Executive Directors, to share the management of UNFPA.

31. At its thirty-sixth session, the Governing Council had recommended that World Population Day should be observed on 11 July 1990, with a view to focusing public attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. UNFPA urged all members of the Council, Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, demographic institutes and centres, and individuals to join it in celebrating World Population Day.

32. UNFPA had for some time been promoting a much-needed new vision, in which the social dimensions of the development equation were accorded a priority equal to, if not higher than, conventional economic considerations. In that vision, human resources were recognized as the engines of development, and respect for nature was seen as paramount. Population issues would inevitably have a central role to play in such a new vision of development, for in the last analysis the attainment of goals depended largely on the extent to which a balance could be found between the rapidly growing world population, the available resources and the fragile environment. The critical links between population and development had been stressed, inter alia, at the Moscow Global Forum on Environment and Development for Human Survival, and by the President of Zimbabwe at the Amsterdam Forum. Many other world leaders and forums had vividly portrayed the alarming crisis drawing closer every day. It was now essential to translate words into effective and sustained deeds. The action taken in the 1990s would determine the future and survival of mankind. UNFPA pledged its fullest commitment to that task.

33. Ms. WESTPHALEN (Finland) said it was clear that the action taken during the final decade of the twentieth century would have far-reaching consequences for the prospects of sustainable development in the first quarter of the twenty-first century and beyond. Current demographic situations and projected trends showed that there would be increased problems associated not only with rapid population growth, migration, unbalanced population distribution and continuing rapid urbanization, but also with emerging demographic issues such as population aging and AIDS. Many projections concerning economic, social and environmental developments rightly noted that continuing rapid population growth would exacerbate the already deteriorating situation in many developing countries. There was an urgent need for greatly expanded efforts to link effective population programmes with social, economic, environmental and structural adjustment programmes in order to foster sustainable development.

34. Finland had participated actively in the General Assembly's special session on reactivation of economic growth, particularly in the developing countries, and in the drafting of the new development strategy for the 1990s. It had placed strong emphasis on the responsibility of national Governments and the international community to create conditions conducive to effective population policies and programmes, integration of population issues in national development plans, and their implementation. The report by UNFPA on evaluation pointed out that very little true progress had been made in that regard. Her delegation urged UNFPA to continue its efforts in the area of evaluation, to reveal the complexity of the issues, and to draw on the lessons of the past in order to design realistic programmes.

35. The Amsterdam Forum had dealt extensively with the question of achieving rapid stabilization of population growth as a means of combating poverty. Political commitment was crucial, as were determined population policies translated into national population plans. Developing countries' capacities to formulate and implement population strategies must thus be strengthened. Compilation of reliable statistical data on population was an important tool in that process. An increasing proportion of GNP in the countries concerned should be directed to population programmes. Increased external financing of such programmes was of critical importance, for over the past 20 years there had been a decline in real terms in funding for population assistance relative to other development assistance.

36. Her delegation agreed with the recommendations of UNFPA and the Amsterdam Declaration that substantial additional international resources were needed for family planning programmes and that it was of crucial importance that international organizations, bilateral donors and recipient Governments should co-operate with a view to maximizing the benefits to be derived from joint efforts while minimizing overlapping and administrative costs. The Amsterdam Declaration had emphasized the co-ordinating role of UNFPA in that area.

37. The success of action in the area of population was greatly influenced by the extent to which other sectors of national development plans reinforced and complemented population policies. Action directed at improving the status of women was of particular importance. The most significant variables were literacy and schooling. It was therefore imperative that the goal of ensuring access to, and improving the quality of, education of girls and women adopted by the Education for All Conference, held in Thailand in March 1990, should be achieved.

38. It had become increasingly clear that the quality of human life was inseparable from the quality of the environment, and that both were inseparable from the question of human numbers and density. Reducing the rate of population growth would therefore help to broaden the options for future generations by facilitating the provision of higher quality education, health care, shelter and an adequate diet for all; it would also stimulate investment in economic development and limit the overall level of environmental damage. All those aspects must be addressed in an integrated manner by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Finland was committed to furthering the consideration of population issues on all pertinent occasions.

39. Mr. NISSEN (Norway) said that his delegation wished to emphasize the need to analyse the cost effectiveness of the various modes of service delivery in the field of maternal and child health care and family planning in order to maximize the benefits from available funds. It was important to present the widest possible selection of family planning methods so that couples would have an opportunity to choose the most suitable methods in accordance with their personal, social, economic and cultural situation. The importance of training to ensure the availability of competent local human personnel must also be stressed.

40. In connection with population information, education and communication, a critical issue was the need to increase awareness of the relationship between population and such questions as the environment, sustainable development and women in development, and to ensure commitment at all levels. The Fund should broaden its activities to that end.

41. His Government believed that co-ordination of activities at the country level was very important. The recipient Government should play the central role, with the support of donor agencies where appropriate. Greater co-operation was also needed at the international level in contraceptive supplies, training, operational research, census and survey programmes, and in the implementation of population programmes. His delegation could not, however, support a proposal to create a new mechanism for international co-ordination, which could be enhanced through discussions on selected topics.

42. His Government regretted that current assistance to the population sector accounted for only 0.9 per cent of total official development assistance (ODA). He therefore urged donors to increase their overall development aid and to devote a larger share of their ODA to population issues. In the view of his delegation, UNFPA was the leader in the United Nations system on women's issues. His Government therefore hoped that the report to be submitted to the Governing Council in 1991 on the implementation of the special strategy to strengthen UNFPA's capacity to deal with issues concerning women would include a thorough analysis of the effectiveness of the strategy, progress achieved and problems encountered, as well as recommendations for follow-up.

43. His delegation considered that the exchange of skills and knowledge among developing countries could contribute substantially to solving population problems and it therefore welcomed the assignment by UNFPA of a staff member to serve as a TCDC focal point officer and the allocation of a growing proportion of UNFPA's resources to activities in that area.

44. In view of the close relationship between AIDS programmes and maternal and child health care, family planning, and population education and information, the role of UNFPA was crucial in the struggle to combat AIDS. More information must be obtained regarding the demographic impact of AIDS and, in that connection, his delegation would welcome information on any preliminary results from the work on that issue by the United Nations Population Division with UNFPA support.

45. With reference to the section in the report (DP/1990/45) on population and poverty, his delegation considered that a population which was increasing too fast could in itself contribute to poverty. Poor countries lacked the

financial resources to provide effective family planning services, while poor and illiterate people had difficulty in making use of such family planning services as existed. His Government supported increased UNFPA funding of programmes in priority countries to alleviate poverty. It appreciated the special attention devoted by UNFPA to disadvantaged groups and to the development of innovative approaches. Co-operation between UNICEF and UNFPA was a positive step and should be enhanced. With its large field organization and system of programme delivery, UNICEF could play an important role in integrating population issues into primary health care.

46. His delegation appreciated that UNFPA recognized the importance of socio-cultural research for the formulation of population policies and the implementation of operational activities. It was a matter of serious concern however, that policy-makers tended to know little about the findings of such research and that researchers often failed to address the strategic planning needs of policy-makers. His delegation would encourage UNFPA to look further into means of bridging that communication gap.

47. The so-called McKinsey report entitled "Building a more effective UNFPA" had recommended action in six areas and his delegation was pleased to learn about improved procedures for the recruitment of staff, rotation of staff between the field and headquarters, the greater emphasis on confidence-building within the organization and the increased decentralization of decision-making to the field. It had also noted with interest that the aim of the global meeting of UNFPA staff in November 1989 had been to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of UNFPA and that the recommendations of that global meeting were being reviewed by an internal working group. He hoped that Member States could get copies of those recommendations in due course.

48. His delegation hoped that the increase in the UNFPA resource utilization rate from 81.1 per cent in 1988 to 89.3 per cent in 1989 could be taken as a positive sign that the Fund was improving not only its efficiency but also its effectiveness.

49. In view of the crucial role of population issues in overall development, it was important that the results of the Amsterdam Conference should be duly taken into account in the preparations for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, as well as in the preparations for the next International Development Strategy and the Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in September 1990.

50. Mr. BODDENS-HOSANG (Netherlands) said the western world should remind itself that it currently consumed 75 per cent of world resources, so that the problem of overburdening the planet was not the exclusive responsibility of one continent or one region. A growing awareness of the seriousness of the population issue had become apparent during the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, which had been held in November 1989 in Amsterdam and was also reflected in General Assembly resolution 44/210. One of the key elements in the analysis of the population issue was the relationship between population and environment. That was evident from the fact that larger numbers of people produced more pollution. Population growth must be slowed down, but it must also be remembered that 75 per cent of global pollution was produced in the industrialized countries as a result of high levels of consumption and production. In developing countries the growing

population problem had a serious impact on the environment. People tended to keep more cattle, cut down more trees and overuse arable land in order to keep the current population alive. The need for food and shelter was often more pressing than preserving the environment. A rapidly growing population needed ever more fuel wood, but the number of trees felled for firewood or commercial logging exceeded new plantings. The consequences were deforestation, which in turn led to erosion and desertification. The poorest groups and, in particular, women, were the first victims of those developments; if drinking water and fuel wood became scarce in the immediate surroundings of the village, women and children had to walk much greater distances carrying their heavy loads.

51. The relationship between population and environmental damage was only one reason for Governments to support family planning projects. Other reasons included the relationship between population and development, and the positive effects of family planning on the health of mothers and children. For those reasons, Governments of developing and developed countries alike supported population activities.

52. In the view of his delegation, one of the most important elements in the Amsterdam Declaration was the emphasis on strengthening the role and position of women. Economically independent and better educated women had better access to family planning services, married at a later stage, were more knowledgeable about contraceptives and were therefore in a better position to limit the number of their children. His delegation accordingly welcomed the increased percentage of UNFPA resources allocated for the women, population and development programme (1.5 per cent in 1985 and 3.1 per cent in 1989).

53. His delegation shared the view of the Amsterdam Declaration that a well co-ordinated approach was needed in the population area. Such co-ordination should be initiated and led by recipient Governments, on the basis of a national plan. His delegation was not convinced that a new focal point was needed to support and guide the co-ordination efforts of the Government. UNFPA seemed to be best suited to perform that task, which would consist mainly in streamlining the efforts of the various donors at the local level.

54. In April 1990, donors represented in the DAC had agreed that a substantial increase in funds for family planning was warranted. His country continued to give high priority in its development assistance policies to the population issue but had some doubts as to whether specific targets should be set. Population growth rates in many African countries exceeded 3 per cent per annum, at a time when Governments faced difficult economic circumstances and lacked qualified civil servants. In view of the needs of Africa and the limited resources of African Governments, the Netherlands welcomed the increase in funds for that continent.

55. His Government attached great importance to the outcome of the debate on "successor arrangements", which would provide an opportunity for it to express its views on the development process itself and on the role the different partners would have to play. As far as the position of UNFPA was concerned within an "agency support cost" arrangement, his delegation tended to believe that a separate arrangement for UNFPA would be advisable. Such an arrangement would have to be dealt with in the context of an overall agreement. On the question of the collaboration of UNFPA with other United Nations agencies, and

in particular WHO and UNICEF, UNFPA was to be commended for taking the initiative and issuing a joint letter to all field staff on the subject of maternal and child health and family planning. His delegation hoped that, because of the interrelationship between population and other economic and social areas, collaboration between UNFPA and other agencies would be strengthened.

56. He inquired how the Executive Director intended to strengthen the collaboration of UNFPA with the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS. His delegation had noted what had been said on AIDS in the Executive Director's 1989 report but believed that, at the national level, much more could and should be done by both UNFPA and the Global Programme to influence Governments and projects.

57. Mr. KELLAND (Denmark) said that the crucial importance of the population issue lent urgency to the need for a concerted international effort to achieve the most efficient use of resources and for collaboration, coherence, complementarity of efforts and avoidance of overlap. Many multilateral agencies were involved and it was clear from the report of the Executive Director that a substantial amount of exchange of information and co-ordination was already taking place. It would, however, be interesting to know more about how such an information exchange took place, its extent, how efforts were co-ordinated and how they complemented one another. In that connection, he suggested that a joint report should be prepared by the two major United Nations agencies involved, namely, UNFPA and UNICEF. Similarities in approach should be identified, as should differences in emphasis and priorities, the scope for division of labour and for supplementing each other's efforts, and the relationship of relevant activities to primary health care in general. It would be sufficient for such a report to deal with activities in four or five recipient countries. Country specificity would also mean that bland generalities would be avoided and that the usual frankness of UNFPA documentation could be maintained. Such reporting might later be extended to cover the activities of other agencies involved in population activities.

58. It was of the utmost importance that the demand for family planning services and contraceptives created through increased awareness should not remain unsatisfied. Creating awareness, the role of women and data collection were very important areas which were also covered by UNFPA activities, and he wished to pay tribute to the Executive Director for the balanced way in which UNFPA dealt with the various components of the population issue. In that connection, he wished to stress the need for strengthening the capacities of recipient countries to deal with population problems themselves. It appeared from the report that UNFPA was already fully aware of the importance of that factor. The potential contribution of TCDC should not be underestimated. The experience of developing countries which already had advanced population programmes would usually be more relevant to other developing countries than that of industrialized countries. His delegation had noted with interest the efforts to make use in other developing countries of the experience gained in Indonesia.

59. In conclusion, he wished to stress the importance of meeting the targets set by the Amsterdam Declaration. The crucial role of population was becoming increasingly apparent. In a number of the poorest countries there was simply

no prospect for development without significant limitation of population growth. In fact, in some cases environmental degradation following rapid population increase would probably lead to an actual decline in economic growth and social well-being.

60. Ms. KEPPENS (Belgium) said that Belgium wished to reaffirm its support for the Amsterdam Declaration, which had recognized the primary responsibility of UNFPA in helping countries to cope with demographic problems. Such problems had become so important that they often threatened the positive results of development programmes, thus making sustained development illusory. As the countries most directly concerned had become aware of the close links between development and demographic trends and were ready to integrate the population dimension into their various sectoral policies, the international community should, in her view, provide vigorous support for the efforts of those countries. In its development co-operation efforts, Belgium attached increasing importance to the demographic sector. It would encourage UNFPA to continue to pursue its goals, and in that connection it continued to contribute both to UNFPA's regular budget and to specific projects, such as the International Centre for Training and Research on Population and Development at Louvain-la-Neuve.

61. The report of UNFPA on the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Amsterdam Declaration indicated that those resources were considerable. The fact must be faced that resources were limited in relation to needs. It was therefore essential to achieve better use of available means. Above all, co-ordination between the actions of individual Governments and the sources of bilateral and multilateral aid was indispensable. Belgium therefore supported the creation of an agency in which UNFPA would play the principal role. Her delegation would suggest that UNFPA should organize meetings between concerned developing countries and donors for the co-ordination and mobilization of resources. The meetings organized by WHO in different countries in connection with the anti-AIDS campaign could provide an example. Such meetings would stimulate the Governments of developing countries and encourage them to prepare in advance a practical national plan on the issue, which would serve as a frame of reference for projects. During such meetings, UNFPA could identify projects of a priority nature and submit them to donors for financing. The number of joint or complementary projects would thus be increased. Her delegation also considered that the activities of UNFPA and WHO on sexually transmitted diseases should be more closely co-ordinated.

62. Belgium endorsed the proposed budget and goals for the plan of action for 1991-1994. On the other hand, it considered that the plan was not a true plan of action in that the impact of the guidelines on future programmes was not sufficiently explicit. In conclusion, her delegation wished to thank UNFPA for its periodic report on evaluation, to which it would revert later.

63. Mr. GILLESPIE (United States of America) said that for more than 20 years UNFPA had spearheaded international population assistance and funded population projects in virtually every developing country. Under the dynamic leadership of its Executive Director, the Fund was undertaking important new initiatives to enhance the status of women throughout the developing world by means of improved family planning and health services.

64. His delegation commended UNFPA for its role in organizing the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam in November 1989, which had constituted an important milestone in focusing international attention on the resource requirements and population programme challenges that would arise in the next century. One of the important programme issues highlighted at the Forum was that population assistance requirements in the next decade must reflect the fact that family planning programme needs varied widely according to country and region.

65. One group of countries could be characterized as having mature or successful family planning programmes in which a variety of family planning methods and services had been made widely available, there was evidence of widespread public demand for family planning, and 50 per cent or more of couples were effectively using contraception. Accompanying that level of success was a whole set of new and difficult challenges for the international population community. For example, how would the developing countries and donors, working together, deal with the resource requirements generated by the large and growing volume of contraceptive users in successful programmes? Under what circumstances should a country programme be "graduated" from heavy dependence on donor assistance? What were the prospects and appropriate strategies for achieving greater long-term programme sustainability? Thailand, Indonesia and Tunisia were among the countries currently facing those issues.

66. Countries which had only recently developed population policies and programmes were at the other end of the family planning continuum. Most countries in sub-Saharan Africa were in that category and the programme challenges were very different from the more advanced family planning programmes. For example, would Africa follow the same path towards fertility transition as Asia and Latin America? What were realistic projections of resource requirements for Africa and how could lessons learned in other regions concerning effective programme implementation be adapted in sub-Saharan Africa, as countries moved from political commitment to programme action?

67. A third group of countries included those that had supported family planning programmes for many years but had not yet achieved high levels of success (for example, Pakistan, Nepal and Haiti). Pilot programmes in many of those countries had demonstrated that impressive gains in contraceptive prevalence could be achieved when sustained high quality services were made readily available. Such successful efforts needed to be expanded and additional careful studies of individual-level and programme constraints were needed, including new operations research to test other innovative approaches to information dissemination and family planning service delivery.

68. At the country level, donors, NGOs and host country Governments must co-ordinate activities in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and address funding gaps. At the global and regional levels, the most effective approach was, in his view, to organize focused meetings or working groups of interested parties to discuss specific issues and develop co-ordinated strategies. UNFPA was well qualified to play the lead role in that area. The Agency for International Development (AID) had enjoyed excellent collaboration with UNFPA

for many years. Recent examples included careful co-ordination of UNFPA, the World Bank and AID census assistance activities in sub-Saharan Africa, co-funding of country costs for specific demographic and health surveys, and discussion of strategies for meeting escalating contraceptive commodity requirements.

69. The United States was committed to doing its share in meeting the population programme challenges of the twenty-first century. However, ultimate success in the 1990s and beyond would depend on a redoubling of efforts by donors, NGOs, the private sector, and the Governments of developing countries themselves. All those resources must be developed to their full potential in order to meet the large and growing demand for family planning and to implement effective and sustainable national family planning programmes.

70. His Government looked forward to continued and productive co-operation with UNFPA, other donors, Governments of host countries and the private sector in addressing the population challenges ahead and in bridging the programme and financial resources gap.

71. Mr. RASAPUTRAM (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation welcomed the efforts made by UNFPA to reduce the pressure of population growth on development prospects. Rapid population growth caused enormous problems by impeding development activities and creating social, political and ethnic unrest. The interdependence of the modern world would make those issues a problem for others as well, and the problems thus posed could not be tackled by countries acting alone. The destabilizing effects of population growth would reduce the ability of countries to maintain a durable rate of economic growth. Requirements for resources that needed to be effectively channelled for employment growth, provision of infrastructure, human resources development and increasing production capacities would undoubtedly rise faster than the rate of population growth itself.

72. The steps taken by national and international organizations to check the deterioration in living standards through population control had achieved remarkable success in many countries. It was generally accepted that people who were more economically active and engaged in creating wealth had lowered their fertility rates. Owing to the process of structural adjustment aggravated by mounting debt and adverse terms of trade, countries might not achieve fertility reduction through the normal development process in the short run. It was therefore necessary to adopt a direct approach by planning the size of families and making women more economically active. Women should not only add to the family income but also have an effective say in decisions concerning family size.

73. His country had achieved remarkable success in reducing population growth through a well-designed scheme of education and family planning. In the early 1950s, population growth in Sri Lanka had been nearly 3 per cent; in 1990, it had declined to about 1.6 per cent. That had been the outcome of many factors. Free education had been introduced in 1945, resulting in a high rate of literacy and level of education among both men and women. As more women had become educated, marriage had been postponed from an average age of 18 years to about 24 years, thus reducing both fecundity and fertility. As women had become more educated, they had decided to seek regular employment and thus contribute to their family income. The resulting rise in the labour force

participation rate had compelled them to have smaller families. In Sri Lanka, family planning programmes were well accepted by most of the population. They might not have enjoyed immediate success in many areas where a certain unfounded bias had had to be overcome through education, persuasion and dissemination of information on family planning.

74. UNFPA assistance in family planning activities was widely appreciated. Those activities were supplemented by NGO programmes, and government support for the Fund was both direct and indirect. Conscious efforts were being made to alleviate poverty, improve education and health, provide incentives for women to participate in economic activity and broaden economic opportunities so that every member of the family would have a say in decisions taken by it. Stressing the need for continued support for family size control by the world community, he noted that the amount of ODA spent on population and family planning was less than 2 per cent. On the other hand, nearly four times that amount would be required annually in order to work on various aspects of family planning and increase the efficiency of the programme through female education and better communication.

75. Few countries were aware of the implications of the changes that might take place in the 1990s. Reforms could not be instituted unless programmes were designed to meet the challenges of integrated development. National effort to change attitudes towards population growth must be supplemented by efforts aimed at ensuring sustainable overall development. In that respect, his delegation supported the statement made by the Executive Director concerning the importance attached to co-operation with Governments, United Nations agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and community development organizations. An increase in the level of government participation, with the assistance of NGOs, would not only enhance the efficient use of funds but would also reduce the operational costs of UNFPA itself.

76. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said his Government firmly believed that UNFPA was striving for a cause aimed at improving the quality of life of peoples of the developing countries by supporting their efforts to achieve population control. With its very limited resources, Pakistan had been contributing regularly to UNFPA. His Government considered that low levels of literacy and education, particularly among teenagers, constituted a great obstacle to social and behavioural change. In his delegation's opinion, it was incumbent on developing countries to assist UNFPA generously in fulfilling its mandate and helping those countries to meet their aspirations for a better quality of life.

77. In Pakistan, the population welfare programme was based on a multidisciplinary approach which took due account of the interrelationship between population resources, environment and the development strategy. The programme sought to bring about a change in favour of the small family norm within an acceptable social and cultural milieu. His Government recognized that the programme's effectiveness depended on achieving improvements in education, maternal and child health, and the participation of women in a productive labour force.

78. Following the decisions of the Bucharest Conference and the findings of an internal evaluation of the population welfare programme in Pakistan, the programme's strategy had been modified from vertical single-purpose family

planning to a multisectoral approach in 1981. That approach envisaged the effective involvement of the facilities and manpower of various government departments. The participation of NGOs had also been satisfactory. To enhance political support for the programme, population welfare committees were being set up in the Senate, the National Assembly and provincial legislatures. The committees would seek to keep the people's representatives informed of population problems and to advise them on ways to improve the population programme. Over a period of time, those committees would help to create a favourable political climate for the promotion of the small family norm. The international community played an important role in his Government's efforts in that field through financial assistance, training of manpower and the provision of information. UNFPA had, in fact, made a useful contribution to his country's population programme.

79. Mr. MIZUTARI (Japan) said that the "State of world population report 1990" had been translated into Japanese by the Japanese Organization for International Co-operation in Family Planning and had attracted a great deal of attention among the general public.

80. It was estimated that the total world population, which had exceeded 5 billion in July 1987, would reach 6.25 billion by the end of the century and 8.5 billion by the year 2025. If it continued to grow at the current rate, it might reach 14 billion. Ninety per cent of that population growth had taken place in the developing countries and had affected social and economic conditions there. Indeed, it was one of the major obstacles to the social and economic development of civilization. It was also increasingly recognized that population growth was connected with the degradation of the global environment. It was therefore important that the population problem should be fully taken into account in formulating and reviewing social and economic development programmes. The population problem should be accorded high priority in the ongoing deliberations on the fourth International Development Strategy, as well as in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992. One problem affecting the developed countries was that of aging, i.e. the increasing proportion of elderly people. Another serious problem was international migration.

81. The International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam in November 1989, had been an important event at which representatives from 79 countries, United Nations agencies and NGOs had formulated future goals and strategies concerning population problems and agreed on the need for co-operation among interested countries and agencies. Another important event had been the DAC Meeting on Population and Development, which had recognized the need to co-ordinate the various activities carried out in the population field by countries and agencies. His delegation fully supported that view, and UNFPA should, in its opinion, play the role of lead agency in that direction. However, such a role should be performed within the existing framework and not through a new mechanism.

82. His delegation endorsed the goal of $US 9 billion as the estimated minimum annual cost in the year 2000 to support the population programme. It was also important that the developing countries themselves should accord high priority to the population programme in their overall social and economic development and allocate additional resources to it.

83. Japan, whose population was about 120 million, was facing a rapid aging of its population and it was estimated that by the year 2000, 25 per cent of its population would be over 65 years of age. As a country fortunate to have resolved its population growth problem, it had been contributing to the efforts made at every level through UNFPA and by providing bilateral assistance. It would continue to extend assistance in that field.

84. Stressing the need for UNFPA to make further efforts to increase the effectiveness of its programmes, he emphasized the importance of evaluation. His delegation was fully aware of the evaluation activities carried out by UNFPA but thought that, in order to make them effective, the results of such evaluation must be utilized in formulating future programmes. It therefore requested UNFPA to consider a more effective mechanism for that purpose.

85. With regard to UNFPA activities in 1989, his delegation was concerned that, owing to the appreciation of the United States dollar, income in 1989 had fallen short of estimates and constituted only a 4.0 per cent increase over income in 1988. UNFPA should make further efforts to increase its income. In that connection, his delegation was pleased that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu had for the first time made contributions in 1989.

86. He welcomed the fact that UNFPA had accelerated the speed of implementation in 1989 and that, as a result, the unexpended balance of general resources had decreased from $US 31.8 million in 1988 to $US 8.5 million in 1989. He hoped that UNFPA would continue that policy, with due regard for the balance of income and expenditure.

87. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that in 1989 the largest portion of UNFPA resources continued to be allocated to the Asia and Pacific region, which accounted for about 60 per cent of the total world population, and that the volume of resources allocated to Africa, whose population problem in the sub-Saharan region was becoming acute, had increased from 24.1 per cent in 1988 to 25.8 per cent in 1989. However, he requested that such an increase for African countries should not be made at the expense of the resources for Asian countries, where a high growth rate was still prevalent, particularly in the countries of southern Asia.

88. In 1989, 72.9 per cent of all programmable resources had been allocated to country programmes and 74.6 per cent to priority countries, an increase consistent with UNFPA policy. His delegation welcomed the fact that the allocation to family planning and information, education and communication had been substantially increased in 1989.

89. As the enhancement of women's status was a prerequisite for easing the population problem, his delegation appreciated the activities carried out by UNFPA in that field. However, it was important that in executing those programmes, due attention should be paid to the mandate of UNIFEM and other competent agencies.

90. With regard to the work plan for 1991-1994 and the request for approval authority contained in document DP/1990/47, he noted that the UNFPA secretariat presented a projection of new programmable resources of $US 775.8 million, based upon income projected for the period at an average annual increase of 9.5 per cent. In his delegation's opinion, that was a

realistic resources scenario in view of the recent trend in the generation of UNFPA revenue. However, his delegation had doubts about 1990 income being estimated at a level 9.5 per cent higher than in 1989, since the increase in income had fallen to 3.9 per cent in 1989. However, it supported the work plan for 1991-1994 as a whole and requested UNFPA to adopt a flexible and more realistic approach in formulating the next work plan for 1992-1995.

91. With respect to the proposals contained in document DP/1990/52, his delegation was not fully convinced of the need to reclassify five posts from D1 to D2, and one from P5 to D1 on the basis of the explanation given in that report. It therefore requested the secretariat to provide more detailed information concerning the need for such reclassification. It also hoped that in-depth and constructive discussion of that matter would be held during the Governing Council's deliberations, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of UNFPA machinery.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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Thirty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 28 May 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

later: Mr. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba)

CONTENTS

United Nations Population Fund (continued)

(a) Special report to the General Assembly through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council (continued)

(b) Report of the Executive Director on 1989 activities (continued)

(c) Periodic report on evaluation.

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (agenda item 6) (continued)

(a) SPECIAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (DP/1990/44)

(b) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1989 ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1990/45, parts I, II and III, DP/1990/46, parts I and II)

(c) PERIODIC REPORT ON EVALUATION (DP/1990/49)

1. Mr. MAHLER (International Planned Parenthood Federation), speaking on behalf of the 130 independent national planned-parenthood associations represented by the Federation, thanked UNDP and UNFPA for giving it the chance to be involved in action on what in his opinion was a key variable in efforts to achieve sustainable development for all the world's inhabitants.

2. The issue of development was not one to be over-simplified. While poverty alleviation might be essential in order to enable families to assume responsibility for their own future, the status of women was equally important, as was education. To favour any one of those factors to the detriment of the others was liable to be counterproductive. There was no denying that development was an extremely complex issue, or that major errors had been committed in the past 40 years. What one age took for granted might be queried by the next. Consequently, it was necessary to be capable of acknowledging one's mistakes, of changing and adapting. It was also clear that people could not have their development done for them by outsiders, but had to do it themselves; the most that was possible was to help them by enhancing their skill and knowledge. Part of the complexity of development was attributable to the fact that it required not only knowledge, but also strong motivation, and he thought that NGOs could act as a third sector in that connection, halfway between the public and the private sectors.

3. The challenge of the 1990s was to meet the family-planning needs of 600 million families and provide them with services capable of affording them assistance in that sphere. It was not a matter of setting targets but of satisfying a demand; if that was done, hundreds of millions of couples would be relieved of the distress of having to choose abortion as a method of birth control. There would also be a chance of stabilizing the world's population at around 8 to 10 billion inhabitants, rather than the 13 to 15 billion it would reach if the current trend persisted. Naturally, the crux of the matter did not lie in such overall figures, but rather in the family microcosm. It was the individuals composing the microcosm who should be helped and whose living conditions it was necessary to try to improve.

4. In order to meet that challenge, more determined political commitments than those so far made were essential. Families and communities ought to participate far more democratically and effectively in family-planning efforts. In particular, women should be given an opportunity to play a more significant role. It was also necessary to improve intersectoral co-operation, which left much to be desired, in particular between education and health. Appropriate techniques existed and should be used. Lastly, much more attention should be given to staff working in the sphere of family

planning. There were many bureaucratic public services that demotivated their personnel, when what was required was keen motivation. In addition to greater financial resources, it was essential to establish close co-operation among all those involved in family planning at all levels.

5. Mr. SHANNON (Canada) thanked Mrs. Sadik for stating unambiguously that the huge challenge facing the world community on the threshold of the twenty-first century was to commit itself more deeply to population issues in order to promote development and help to build a better world. His delegation paid tribute to the Fund's tireless efforts to get the prime importance of population issues recognized in the context of economic and social development. It also appreciated the efforts made by the Fund to promote greater public awareness of population issues and to focus greater attention on them. That was necessary in order to mobilize the political will that was essential if population programmes were to be successful.

6. In the foreword to her report, the Executive Director emphasized in particular, the importance of giving priority to the elimination of poverty, disease and illiteracy throughout the world. His delegation recognized that in order to achieve sustainable development, it was essential to combat poverty. However, poverty, like the standard of living, was inseparable from population issues. The highest rates of reproduction were to be found among the poorest sectors of the world's population. That meant rapid reproduction of poverty, which was becoming one of the major issues for the future. All efforts should therefore be focused on those sectors of the population and on the actual nature of population issues. What those issues were concerned with, first and foremost, was human beings, who were an essential resource for the development process, as the Brundtland Commission had clearly demonstrated in its report. The 1990 State of World Population report stressed the need to develop human resources better by increased investment in health, education, activities for women and family planning. Consequently, his delegation fully endorsed the appeal made by UNFPA for greater emphasis on human resources during the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. It also reiterated its support for the prominence given to initiatives for women in the Fund's programme of activities. It took note of the increased importance given to women in Asia and in the Pacific region through training programmes to encourage their participation in various project activities and would urge UNFPA to ensure that such activities were carried out regularly in all regions.

7. The State of World Population report drew attention to the environmental damage that had already been caused by a world population of 5.3 billion and warned against the growing dangers to which the environment was exposed as the population expanded. Environmental problems were inextricably bound up with the planet's capacity to support all of its inhabitants while preserving a balance in its natural resources. It was therefore necessary to change the manner in which natural resources were exploited and to develop more efficient and cleaner techniques. His delegation thought that the Fund should improve its knowledge of the relationship between population and the environment by giving greater support to research.

8. Canada remained concerned about the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, where the socio-economic indicators showed that progress was sluggish. It supported the Fund's activities in that region, in particular the following: research in the socio-cultural sphere; the integration of population factors

into development planning; and support for various programmes and activities in regional and training establishments. It also thought that it was important to apply the results of that research to the design and implementation of the Fund's programmes and projects. The need for greater investment in human resources seemed particularly urgent in that region. Governments should redirect their resources towards health and education programmes so as to combat poverty and reduce the high rates of demographic growth. Family-planning programmes should be strengthened by means of clearly defined operational strategies and they should be integrated into public health systems. To achieve that end, a resolute commitment was necessary at all levels, backed up by adequate resources.

9. The Fund called for a doubling of the level of funds from all sources by the year 2000 and forecast a decline in the share of national funds in proportion to international funds. His delegation was willing for global funds to be increased, but it was concerned about the decline in the share of national funds at a time when the Fund was advocating an increase in investment at the national level in basic services and services dealing with population issues. Accordingly, it requested more detailed information on the trend in the percentage of GDP devoted to such services in each region, and on changes in the share of funds for country programmes contributed by each country.

10. In addition, Canada whole-heartedly supported the Fund's determination to make population programmes more efficient. One fundamental means of improving the design and implementation of such programmes was to ensure tight co-ordination, first and foremost at the country level. That would in particular make it possible to define needs better when it was necessary to appeal for assistance from donors, to rationalize the allocation of resources provided by the international community and to increase the national contribution in that sector. Governments should be responsible for such co-ordination, although the Fund should be able to help in setting up or strengthening co-ordination activities and machinery.

11. UNFPA could help to improve population programmes in other spheres, and his delegation would come back to that point when other items on the agenda were considered. For the time being, he would simply mention Programme Review and Strategy Development as an important area of activity where improvements could be made in the light of the evaluations of national programmes as reflected in document DP/1990/49.

12. National and regional co-ordination was essential in order to ensure programmes were efficient. Canada endorsed the idea of international co-ordination provided it was aimed at dealing with specific problems, such as contraception, information or operational research, and that it was organized so as to achieve clearly defined objectives. He would like more information on those aspects. Lastly, he confirmed his delegation's support for many of the activities proposed by UNFPA in the current year.

13. Mrs. SUNYAKOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized the close and complex interdependence between demographic trends and economic, ecological, social and cultural factors: that explained why, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, it was essential to stabilize the demographic growth of countries and regions in order to guarantee more balanced economic

and social progress for future generations, to overcome backwardness and to settle local conflicts. She also emphasized the importance of international co-operation, which, while making use of models that had proved their worth, should be constantly setting out on new paths and seeking to resolve demographic, social, economic and ecological problems in a rational and comprehensive manner.

14. From that angle, she felt that the UNFPA's performance in implementing the World Population Plan of Action since the 1974 Bucharest Conference and the 1984 Mexico Conference had been satisfactory. She particularly stressed the role played by the Fund and its Executive Director, Mrs. Sadik, in organizing the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century; she endorsed the Amsterdam Declaration adopted by the Forum and welcomed document DP/1990/44, reporting on its implementation.

15. UNFPA provided valuable assistance to the developing countries, where it was endeavouring to reduce the level of infant mortality, diminish illiteracy, increase life expectancy, and raise the level of education of women, while at the same time seeking to expand and improve statistical services. Although the machinery for international co-ordination and co-operation had been improved, it was still not commensurate with the scale of the problems. Efforts should be made to co-ordinate the programming cycles of UNDP, UNFPA and, if possible, UNICEF, and to design programmes that took into account countries' economic and social development potential and objectives.

16. The documents submitted by UNFPA at the current session showed that it had so far not analysed a number of major questions in sufficient depth, in particular the interaction between social policies to control population growth, and family-planning programmes. The Fund should think more in terms of examining the whole range of social, economic, ethnic, cultural and religious factors governing the conditions under which birth control programmes had to be implemented. Such programmes should be designed and implemented in such a way as to respect the specific characteristics of each country and also human rights; as in the case of any activity in the sphere of population, women should play a full part in those programmes.

17. She commended the increase in the resources allocated by the Fund to projects for African countries, a trend that was in line with the efforts being made by the international community to increase its aid to those countries. The Soviet Union, for its part, intended to increase its contribution to the Fund by 22 per cent in 1991 in comparison with 1988, when it had begun to participate in its activities.

18. The Soviet authorities were anxious not only to share their own experience of demographic issues, but also to draw on that acquired by other countries, in order to solve a number of disturbing problems in the USSR, such as the persistently high rate of mortality among the working population, the high rate of infant mortality, the large number of abortions, attributable to inadequate contraception, and the far from rational distribution of the population: for example, the population of several regions in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian SSR was declining while that of Central Asia was increasing at an annual rate of 2.84 per cent and would double within 25 years.

19. Soviet specialists were endeavouring to develop means of strengthening the family and protecting mothers and children, which would be integrated into the medium- and long-term population programmes in the country's various republics and regions. Soviet bodies were likewise making thorough preparations for the European seminar to be held in October 1990 at Tbilisi under the auspices of UNFPA and WHO. As part of its co-operation with the Fund, the Soviet Union had, for over 12 years, been providing demography courses at the University of Moscow, which had been followed by some 430 trainees from 70 countries. As part of those activities, a group of specialists responsible for preparing for the Chinese population census had recently made a visit in order to study computerized methods of population analysis. The Ministry of Health, the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Soviet association Family and Health, which was a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, had declared their willingness to organize, with the support of the Fund, regular seminars on family-planning problems and the demographic and ecological aspects of development. The USSR wished its experts to participate more actively in the implementation of the Fund's projects and, in addition, hoped to benefit from the assistance of United Nations experts in evaluating the demographic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Lastly, Soviet officials considered that it was desirable to study the opportunities for co-operation in the field of mother and child welfare between UNFPA, UNICEF and Soviet bodies.

20. As the members of the UNDP Governing Council would have realized, the Soviet Union favoured a broad dialogue and extensive international co-operation, hoping that it would thus be possible to solve the demographic problems of a single and interdependent world, with due consideration for the differences between countries and regions. UNFPA had already made a constructive contribution to such dialogue and co-operation.

21. Mr. JOLLY (United Nations Children's Fund) said that in recent years collaboration between UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO had grown closer and more effective. He drew the Council's attention to three new developments likely to strengthen that collaboration at the field level and at headquarters. UNICEF, like UNFPA and WHO, had spent much of 1990 developing priority goals and strategies for the 1990s, focused, in the case of UNICEF, on child survival, development and protection and on improvements in the situation and welfare of women. Those objectives, which had been approved by UNICEF's Executive Board at its April session, would underlie collaboration by UNICEF with Governments, other United Nations agencies and donor countries.

22. At the same session, UNICEF's Executive Board had approved a new policy paper on safe motherhood, which focused particular attention on child spacing and family planning. In addition, in one of its resolutions the Executive Board had referred to the Amsterdam Declaration and encouraged UNICEF to ensure that family planning and child spacing were supported as integral parts of primary health care.

23. Lastly, the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Director-General of WHO and the Executive Director of UNFPA had agreed to send a letter to all their field offices summarizing the common goals and strategies of the agencies for the 1990s, drawing attention to their individual objectives and suggesting that the offices strengthen co-operation at the national level, in conjunction with Governments, with a particular focus on those common objectives and

strategies. In particular, the letter emphasized the desirability of harmonizing the programming cycles of the three organizations with national planning cycles, in particular when country programmes were prepared. Inter-office collaboration should specifically focus on reinforcing maternal and child health and family-planning services, analysis of needs, support for information, education and communication, improved monitoring of the human dimensions of development and support for actions to improve the status and well-being of women. For example, it would be possible to consider combining UNICEF and WHO support for the supply of essential drugs with UNFPA support for supplies of contraceptive materials, provided that matched the wishes of the Governments concerned. As could be seen, the letter sought to ensure that field offices activities were not merely parallel, but complementary, and thus more effective.

24. Such complementarity was also desirable at a broader level in efforts to promote more balanced, more sustainable and more human development. As was apparent from the documents before the Council, UNFPA stressed the importance of family planning not only as a way of slowing down the rate of population growth, but also as a means of improving maternal and child health and helping to improve the status of women. For its part, UNICEF wished to emphasize that if child health and survival were improved, couples would feel freer to decide for themselves how many children they wished to have. As the Executive Director of UNICEF had observed, it was by combining child survival and family planning that population stabilization would most quickly be achieved.

25. Many new challenges remained. The World Summit for Children to be held in New York the following September would be an opportunity for the international community as a whole to commit itself to achieving the goals for the 1990s. With renewed action and commitment it could help all countries move to a more human pattern of development in the last decade of the century.

26. Mr. Morales Carballo (Cuba) took the Chair.

27. Ms. ALOPAEUS-STÅHL (Sweden) pointed out that although a high percentage of the world's population did benefit from development efforts, it remained true that the number of women, men and children living in misery was increasing rapidly on account of the growing imbalance between population and resources. She hoped that the current session of the Governing Council would provide an opportunity for a constructive dialogue on the ways of solving that problem with the co-operation of UNFPA. The reports by the Executive Director on the Fund's activities (DP/1990/45, parts I to III) were a good starting point for such a debate.

28. With regard to the Amsterdam Declaration and its implications for population programmes, she trusted that the Governing Council's deliberations would be reflected in the report by the Executive Director of UNFPA to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Swedish representatives at the Amsterdam International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century had noted with satisfaction the constructive ideas put forward on the interaction between population, development, the environment and the status of women. While it was true that population programmes were dependent on development in a wide variety of economic, social and cultural areas, there were nevertheless hundreds of millions of women and men whose demands for family-planning services were not met on account of inadequate funds and

supplies. Women should therefore be enabled to participate fully in development activities as a whole, and the management capacity of population programmes should be improved. Her delegation was consequently prepared to endorse the substantive and programme directions proposed by the Executive Director in document DP/1990/44 regarding family planning, maternal and child health, population policy development and information, education and communication.

29. She hoped that the work plan for 1991-1994 (DP/1990/47) would be flexible enough to ensure that available resources were used efficiently. UNFPA programmes should be matched to the contributions the donor countries were prepared to provide and to the actual capacity of the recipient countries to utilize them. While welcoming the increase in programme implementation, she suggested that a mechanism for efficient reprogramming of unused funds within certain time-limits should be introduced. In addition, as far as the proposal for a doubling or trebling of the amount of funds earmarked for population programmes was concerned, she said that while the implication of the Amsterdam Forum was that development should take place concurrently in a number of areas which strengthened population programmes and made them more sustainable through national capacity building, it might be inappropriate to increase funding for population activities if the level of development assistance to social sectors remained stagnant. The overall level of international development assistance ought to be increased so that the financial burden was shared fairly.

30. As far as evaluation was concerned, it was a never-ending process, and there was room for improvement in that sphere too, as was rightly pointed out in document DP/1990/49.

31. Co-ordination of development activities within the United Nations and with agencies outside the system still left much to be desired. Her delegation desired closer co-operation among the members of the international community in the fields of development and population, although it did not consider special machinery to be necessary. UNFPA was a natural focal point for global co-ordination, and it should be strengthened so that it would serve that purpose.

32. She welcomed the progress achieved in the sphere of policy formulation and in data collection and analysis, in particular by sex, and considered that UNFPA should play an increasingly active role in that sphere. Supporting national capacity building would enable Governments to initiate and co-ordinate population programmes effectively as part of their country's overall development. Co-operation between UNDP and UNFPA on country-profile identification was commendable, although those agencies could undoubtedly benefit from the World Bank country and sector analyses and from the analysis of the situation of women and children undertaken regularly by UNICEF. She would encourage UNFPA to develop its co-operation with specialized agencies in implementing various programmes, provided that the agencies were able to offer competitive partnerships. With regard to UNICEF in particular, such co-operation would widen the scope for family-planning services, information, education and communication and the prevention of AIDS.

33. She noted with satisfaction the Fund's participation in the Safe Motherhood initiative and the joint declaration by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA on the reproductive health of youth, as those two spheres were inseparably linked.

34. The Fund also had a substantial contribution to make towards the formulation of a fourth international development strategy, in particular in the area of human resources development, and to the forthcoming World Environment Conference. The experience gathered by the Fund in the field of development policy formulation and implementation with a particular emphasis on urbanization and migration, as well as on the demographic causes and consequences of those phenomena, was extremely valuable.

35. Mr. PASQUIER (Switzerland) said that the report by Mrs. Sadik clearly set out the implications of the Amsterdam Declaration. He nevertheless regretted that that global view was not more fully reflected in the latter part of the document, which restricted itself to an excessively one-sided approach, taking planning activities out of their context. Experience had however clearly shown that the need to reduce the rate of population growth could not be treated as a problem on its own which could be solved simply by having more and better family-planning services. Such efforts were undoubtedly essential, but they could not achieve lasting results unless they were integrated into the overall context of social development. He referred in that connection to the importance of raising women's educational level and status as an essential means not only of diminishing fertility, but also of improving family life. To achieve that end, it was above all necessary to encourage the provision of schooling for girls and practical training for women in order to give them greater economic independence and freedom of choice. It was also desirable to help them to modify traditional institutions which were more often than not hostile to their emancipation. It was vital to adopt approaches that involved the community as a whole, and in particular to seek to develop awareness among young boys and men, either through schools and the media or through the support of local leaders, in particular religious leaders. It was also essential to encourage couples to communicate with each other more if there was to be a genuine sharing of responsibility for birth control.

36. Demography was first and foremost a cultural phenomenon. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the current broad recognition of the importance of socio-cultural factors for successful population programmes. It had taken note with considerable interest of UNFPA's activities in the field of socio-cultural research. One of the major conclusions of the preliminary analysis made by the Fund of the influence of socio-cultural factors on the success of population programmes concerned the correlation between a society's level of social development and its attitude towards change, a finding which again underscored the need for a global approach aimed at influencing the various factors affecting economic and social development simultaneously and in a co-ordinated manner.

37. As the report pointed out, it was not enought just to make more and more studies; they must also be of use to planners and project designers. Not only must they be made known and accessible, but they should also lead to specific proposals capable of bringing about a change in behaviour. UNFPA should draw the attention of authors to those requirements and encourage government officials and NGOs to establish closer links with researchers. His delegation would like the secretariat to provide more information on the research

activities in UNFPA's programme in terms of expenditure and sectoral distribution. It also noted the lack of a research strategy for the future. The analysis carried out by the Fund had shown that such studies were an essential basis for developing appropriate programmes and projects. The Fund should ensure, in conjunction with recipient countries, that socio-cultural research was carried out whenever it was lacking, which did not necessarily mean that UNFPA should provide the funding for the research, although it could do so whenever necessary, particularly in order to enhance the research capacity of developing countries.

38. As far as mobilizing resources for population activities was concerned, Switzerland realized the seriousness of the problem of population growth and was prepared to support activities in that field, essentially through its contribution to UNFPA. It was convinced of the desirability of significantly increasing overall funds for population programmes, but felt that too much store should not be set by target figures whose achievement did not itself guarantee a genuine improvement in the situation. It was desirable to strengthen support for a whole range of other sectors whose direct or indirect influence on population growth had been demonstrated. The intrinsic quality of population programmes, i.e. their suitability for local conditions and needs and their integration within an overall strategy aimed at developing human resources and improving living conditions, was as important as the resources available. In her reports, Mrs. Sadik clearly demonstrated the major role that UNFPA should play in helping its partners to make programmes of action in the various development sectors more consistent and better co-ordinated. The comparative analysis made by UNFPA on the topic of population and development planning had clearly shown that the measures it had adopted in that sector had not been sufficiently concrete, for lack of operational concepts. It was therefore vital for the Fund to help develop such concepts and strengthen human resources in the areas of analysis, planning and management. Only then would outside assistance be able to achieve its essential objective, which was to reinforce countries' capacity to solve their own problems.

39. Mr. FAN Guoxiang (China) said that population problems had taken on a universal dimension and that all countries in the world would have to set themselves to the difficult task of curbing the population explosion. The world's population continued to grow by 90 million each year, 90 per cent of those people being born in socially and economically underdeveloped countries. The Amsterdam International Forum in November 1989 had put forward a number of principles which could guide UNFPA's future work. His delegation considered that it was essential for the Fund to continue to uphold the principle of respect for the recipient countries' sovereignty.

40. His delegation was pleased to note that in 1989 the total amount of contributions to UNFPA and the funds allocated to projects had increased. In addition, it welcomed the marked rise in funds allocated to priority countries, in particular those in the sub-Saharan region, and hoped that UNFPA would also continue to give attention to other regions with serious population problems.

41. Pursuant to decisions 87/15 and 87/30 of the Governing Council, UNFPA had gradually increased its assistance aimed at promoting a more active role for women in development. In some developing countries, and especially in the

underdeveloped areas of those countries, women's socio-economic status was still very low, a fact which prevented them from participating properly in decisions affecting socio-economic development and family planning. Accordingly, UNFPA should strengthen its activities in that sphere, and in particular develop, for example, for the direct benefit of women, literacy teaching and training in production techniques and management skills for small-scale enterprises.

42. The goal of UNFPA assistance was to allow recipient countries to become more self-reliant in handling their population problems. After having received such assistance for many years, many countries had acquired enough experience in the areas of programme and project implementation, evaluation and control for UNFPA to encourage them henceforth to implement some projects on their own.

43. In addition, his delegation had also noted that UNFPA was gradually expanding local procurement activities, although the proportion was still too small. The Fund should systematically encourage the purchase of local equipment, which was generally best suited to requirements, and in addition simplify procedure by, for example, authorizing field offices to take full responsibility for local procurement.

44. The Chinese Government had enjoyed excellent relations with UNFPA for a period of some 10 years. It wished to expand that co-operation and to broaden the areas covered by it, and was also prepared to develop co-operation with other countries.

45. Mr. Popescu (Romania) resumed the Chair.

46. Mr. FONDI (Italy) said that, at the current rate of demographic growth, the world population would exceed 6 billion by the end of the twentieth century and 8 billion by 2025. The consequences could be dramatic, particularly as the most vulnerable groups of the population would be the most seriously affected. Italy therefore attached great importance to the activities which UNFPA had been carrying out for the past 20 years and more and firmly supported the structural and financial reforms introduced by the Executive Director in order to improve the Fund's effectiveness. Owing to a financial squeeze, Italy had unfortunately been obliged to reduce its contribution, but it hoped that as from 1991 it would be able to resume, or even improve on the previous rate.

47. The Italian Government urged great collaboration between UNFPA and Italian institutions dealing with population problems such as the Italian Institute of Population Research, which had recently requested UNFPA to organize a workshop on migration problems in Italy and had offered the support of its technical resources for that purpose.

48. The organization of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam in November 1989, had been an excellent initiative. The Declaration adopted on that occasion should make it possible to prepare an effective strategy for follow-up action.

49. Mr. EL FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) considered that the goal to which the participants in the Amsterdam Forum aspired of ensuring a better life for future generations represented a practical and urgent task for the international community, but also a complex one, as a number of interdependent factors had to be taken into account, such as: the role of women in development; the relationship between family and development and between development and national cultures and traditions; and structural adjustment, which naturally had implications for population programmes.

50. There was consequently a heavy task ahead for UNFPA, which was right in wishing to broaden its activities, for example by undertaking studies on the education of women and children. It was essential, however, that when decisions were taken, the prime consideration should be to respect each community's own culture.

51. Effective co-ordination of action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels was essential in order to avoid duplication of expenditure and decisions. There was accordingly a need for rationalization, and for that purpose it would perhaps be useful for UNFPA, as had been proposed, to set up an appropriate mechanism of its own. He would like to be informed about the financial implications of that recommendation and the sources of finance for it.

52. Mr. SAHLMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation attached special importance to the substantive recommendations of the Amsterdam Declaration, which ought to be followed-up. As donors had been requested to co-ordinate population programmes better and to make them more effectiven, his Government had noted with interest UNFPA's proposal for the establishment of a co-ordination mechanism at the international level and considered that the Fund would be best suited to take the lead in that connection. The proposal by the delegation of Denmark for the preparation of a joint report by UNFPA, UNICEF and, at a later stage, IPPF, could be a first step towards better co-ordination. His delegation also supported greater co-operation with UNV and WHO. The Amsterdam Declaration had rightly stressed the need for recipient countries to take full responsibility for co-ordinating efforts within their own territories and to increase their administrative and managerial capacities in the population field. His delegation fully supported UNFPA's appeal to recipient countries to increase the level of their investment in the areas of health, education and population to 5 per cent of GNP. Any increase in international assistance in the population fields must be preceded by an unequivocal commitment by recipient countries to give much higher priority to population, social development and poverty alleviation.

53. In her report, the Executive Director of UNFPA had indicated the importance of curbing population growth if effective action was to be taken to eliminate poverty. Poverty, moreover, necessarily limited the success of population programmes, particularly because it prevented access to education. UNFPA should mobilize all development aid institutions, within and outside the United Nations system, for the fight against absolute poverty, which was an essential aspect of population policies. His delegation repeated its earlier appeal for active co-operation between all United Nations agencies, preferably in the form of joint programming.

54. Effective action on poverty also meant focusing programming on priority countries and then on poverty groups within any single country. His delegation took note with satisfaction of the increase in the share of programme expenditure going to priority countries, especially in Africa. It would however welcome more substantial increases in the future. From the qualitative standpoint, also, programming should concentrate on the same group of countries, and, in that connection, the Programme Review and Strategy Development missions introduced by UNFPA in May 1989 appeared to be an excellent programming instrument. However, the selection of countries (Angola, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic) did not sufficiently reflect the need to apply the Amsterdam recommendations on improving national co-ordination to priority countries. That shortcoming should be remedied.

55. His delegation was concerned that UNFPA had not, as planned, allocated 50 per cent of its resources to family planning in 1989. Furthermore, if it had allocated more than 28 per cent of its resources to research, it should also have been able to devote a much larger share to policy implementation and thus to the application of research findings. Moreover, on the specific question of statistical presentation, UNFPA should ensure that definitions were made uniform so that it could submit a coherent table of its aid broken down by executing agency.

56. With regard to the UNFPA field structure, his delegation would like to know what progress had been made on decentralization and, in particular, on the partial delegation of approval authority to field offices. There was room for a careful assessment of the staffing needs of the large number of field offices, which had only 63 Professional posts compared with 100 at Headquarters. It was imperative that many more Professional staff members should be appointed to field offices; their recruitment at the national level would not be enough: in order to meet the future challenges outlined in the Amsterdam Declaration, consideration should be given to reassigning Headquarters Professional staff to the field.

57. On the issue of evaluation, UNFPA had taken a laudable initiative in integrating in-depth programme evaluations into the Programme Review and Strategy Development exercise. His delegation had noted with concern that only half of the large-scale projects included evaluation components which went beyond mere self-evaluation. Projects, and not just programmes, should be subject to regular independent evaluations.

58. His delegation would also be interested to learn how the "Lessons Learned Database" was constituted, particularly in connection with the feedback of the findings of evaluations. In his view, a mere reporting of results would not suffice. Short training courses should be organized for the staff members concerned.

59. Mr. MACDONALD (Australia) said that the documents before the Council fully established the inextricable link between population, natural resources and the environment, which was also stressed in the Amsterdam Declaration.

60. UNFPA was rightly placing more and more emphasis on maternal and child health, the status of women and their role in development. His delegation particularly welcomed the continuing attention given by the Fund to those

issues in Asia and the Pacific, since there was a particularly strong correlation between a decline in births and family welfare on one hand and female literacy and education on the other. Account must always be taken of cultural attitudes when attempting to persuade people of the need for family planning. His delegation therefore welcomed UNFPA's proposal to pursue socio-cultural research on the issue.

62. The population problem was undeniably critical in Africa, but the same was true in certain parts of Asia and the Pacific; he therefore welcomed UNFPA's decision to allocate a high proportion of its resources to programmes for seven South Pacific countries in particular. The Australian Government and Australian institutions would support some of those activities.

61. Australia had substantially increased its contribution in 1990. As it saw population planning as an integral part of development, it would continue to support UNFPA's work in that area.

63. Ms. FIRDAUS (Observer for Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh and UNFPA maintained a symbiotic relationship. In particular, the Fund was making a very active contribution to Bangladesh's Maternal Child Health/Family Planning Programme. It was also collaborating by studying the country's population activities, providing contraceptives and organizing services.

64. Bangladesh was one of the most densely populated countries in the world and accordingly gave priority to action designed to slow population growth, which had been reduced to 2.3 per cent in the 1980s. In 1969, family planning had been practised by only 3.9 per cent of couples; in 1988-1989 the proportion had risen to 33 per cent.

65. The Government had set up a national population control service under the chairmanship of the President of Bangladesh. At the local level, family-planning committees, health and family welfare centres and training programmes for family-planning workers had been established. The implementation of multi-sectoral projects has also benefited from greater co-ordination between the different ministries. In spite of the disappointing results achieved during the first three years of the third five-year plan, the point had been reached at which there was greater acceptance of smaller families. In addition, the public authorities had initiated vigorous action to improve the status of women, in particular through education, which had been made compulsory for girls, and through training programmes for women. There again, UNFPA aid had been valuable.

66. The Government of Bangladesh had decided that population questions would continue to enjoy high priority during the 1990s and that the community as a whole and NGOs should be more closely associated with family-planning programmes. Bangladesh was relying on UNFPA's fullest co-operation during the entire decade; it hoped moreover that the Fund would be called on to play a larger role in the new programme of action to be adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

67. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said that his delegation had studied the documents before the Council with great interest. It congratulated the UNFPA secretariat on the excellent work it had done in 1989 and the important activities it planned for the future. The Amsterdam Declaration had been

analysed to yield a group of interesting proposals and guidelines in document DP/1990/44, which his delegation was prepared to support, on the understanding that they would be implemented in such a way as to help individual countries achieve their own objectives in the population field.

68. The problem of resources was fundamental, and it was unanimously recognized that international organizations, developed countries and other sources of finance would have to furnish considerably increased resources to help the developing countries resolve their population problems. It would not, however, be easy for the developing countries themselves to increase their contributions, as the international economic situation had affected most of them badly, making it difficult for them to increase the resources allocated to population activities. The need to give priority to population questions was increasingly recognized, however, and his delegation was sure that UNFPA would enjoy the support of the international community.

69. Co-ordination at the national and international levels was another essential aspect. UNFPA had been successful in co-ordinating its activities with other institutions and with Governments. At the national level, each Government was responsible for the promotion, execution and co-ordination of population activities, and better co-ordination at all levels would help to make population programmes considerably more effective and to achieve the common goal of a higher standard of living and quality of life for all peoples.

70. Document DP/1990/45 shared UNFPA's increasingly active role in giving assistance to the developing countries. Efficient allocation of resources for project implementation was the best way of ensuring that the international community's support for UNFPA would continue to grow.

71. In 1989, the Fund had focused its activities on a number of issues, including family planning, information, education and communication, the collection of basic data and women in development. It was essential to maintain a proper balance in the appropriation of resources; no one activity should be favoured at the expense of others, in view of countries' differing situations and capacities.

72. 1989 had marked a new stage in the collaboration between UNFPA and the Latin American and Caribbean region; Cuba in particular was sparing no effort to make the most effective use of the assistance provided by the Fund, which was of great importance for its programmes on family planning, training and research. Furthermore it was important to stress the valuable support given to national programmes by activities at the regional and interregional levels.

73. With reference to the section of the report entitled "Promotion of awareness and review of other aspects of the UNFPA programme", mention should be made of the Fund's important work on the review and appraisal of experience, exchange of information, policy and programme co-ordination, information, TCDC and the promotion of multi-bilateral financing. His delegation had taken particular note of the section dealing with population and poverty. The analysis of the relationship between poverty and population was unquestionably useful, and his delegation trusted that the Secretariat would continue its efforts to identify possible activities, co-ordinate them with receipient Governments and secure aid from potential donors, in order to help alleviate poverty.

74. Mr. VAN ARENDONK (Assistant Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the report on evaluation (DP/1990/49), said that he would confine himself to highlighting a number of the Fund's recent evaluation activities and some of their important contributions of evaluation to policy and programme formulation and operational management.

75. UNFPA had been in existence for more than 20 years, and in that time, the role of evaluation had evolved to suit the needs. Initially, the Fund had provided data on the expected and actual performance of country, intercountry and other programmes so that it could be assessed whether the targets of Fund activities had been met. Later on, evaluation had started assuming a more significant role in providing key decision makers with information to help them in their policy-making and managerial functions; that had meant linking monitoring more closely to evaluation and strengthening the relationship between careful programme and project design and actual evaluation. In the past couple of years, as most country and intercountry programmes supported by UNFPA had gone through their third or fourth cycles, programme and project formulation had required increasingly careful and analytical evaluation of past performance. The basic needs assessment missions, which the Fund had depended upon in the past to help guide its decision-making, had been replaced by Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) activities, concerned with comprehensive evaluation of previous experience as the basis for formulating new strategies and programmes. Thus, evaluation had become an agency-wide function involving not only the Technical and Evaluation Division (TED) but also the Geographical Divisions, the executing agencies, governmental collaborating institutions and, most importantly, the UNFPA field offices.

76. The expanded role of evaluation in UNFPA activities had thus given rise to a number of emerging patterns. Firstly, evaluation had tended to be more programme-oriented, attempting to provide key decision makers with useful synthesized data quickly. Secondly, evaluation was now an integral part of every unit in the Fund, with internal evaluation reports regularly made by field offices and executing agencies, the main points of the "lessons learned" from such evaluations being collated and analysed by the Evaluation Branch and TED. Thirdly, the Evaluation Branch was currently concentrating more on independent evaluation of a comparative or thematic nature in an attempt to respond to the more immediate data needs of programme and project officials. To that end, the Evaluation Branch and TED collaborated closely with the Geographical Divisions, executing agencies and private consultants, as well as UNFPA country offices.

77. A number of measures had been taken in pursuing that more active approach to evaluation. Firstly, the introduction and use of the new monitoring and evaluation division guidelines, currently available in English, French and Spanish, was being speeded up. The new project management plan, which had been largely taken over from UNDP procedures, would make it easier to monitor project development, even as the project progress report was no longer required more than once a year. Those new monitoring and evaluation instruments had been tested for two years and were the results of accumulated experience in the Fund. Secondly, training in the processes and procedures of monitoring and evaluation was being pursued and was especially needed for UNFPA field staff, who bore the main responsibility in the area. At the latest Country Directors' Workshop held in New York in April and May 1990, considerable attention had been focused on evaluation. Thirdly, greater

emphasis was being placed on the dissemination of evaluation results, which required as much attention as the actual evaluation process. TED's primary goal was more immediate feedback to decision makers, and that was being carried out by anticipating user needs. Substantive results of evaluations were being released through programme advisory notes, bulletins and the like. The most important findings of major reviews were made the subject of workshops and seminars, to which United Nations agency and NGO officials concerned were invited. Fourthly, as the PRSD system became the main instrument for assessing needs and formulating programmes, the crucial role of evaluation in a total management process was becoming more apparent. The Executive Director had emphasized that PRSD involved all sectors of the Fund. Monitoring and evaluation in all their aspects would therefore require the collaborative efforts of the Geographical Divisions. The evaluation function should thus be able to respond to various information needs: in-depth independent evaluation, thematic or comparative evaluation, internal programme and project evaluation, and lessons learned formed continually updated data bases.

78. Lastly, evaluation activities in the future would emphasize follow-up to recommendations and suggestions for corrective action arising from earlier evaluations. Every evaluation report would include a plan and schedule for follow-up to determine whether actions proposed were being carried out or not. That approach stressed the continuous nature of evaluation as an integral part of the normal management process.

79. Mr. SKJØNSBERG (Norway) welcomed the periodic report on evaluation and said that the Executive Director had his Government's full support in her efforts to improve the evaluation system; it was necessary to identify not only progress and achievements, but also mistakes and difficulties in order to learn from past experience. The comparative evaluations provided useful information for programme and project formulation and for policy development. Those undertaken in the area of population and development planning showed that, for several reasons, the fundamental objective of integrating population into development planning had not been achieved. His delegation was certain that the findings of the report would help UNFPA, and perhaps other bodies as well, to improve performance in that important area. The evaluations of agencies executing UNFPA intercountry programmes were also useful. A good example was the identification of obstacles the WHO regional office in Africa was facing as an executing agency: lack of co-ordination between the regional office and WHO headquarters; WHO's national quota system for hiring staff; and lack of technical capacity in the field of family planning. Those findings were of particular interest for assessing the effectiveness and advantages of different multilateral institutions.

80. Regarding monitoring and evaluation guidelines, his delegation shared UNFPA's view that the basic problem was not so much the design and content of the guidelines, but rather the difficulties encountered in ensuring their proper application. Norway therefore supported the Fund's efforts to improve training in the area, both for UNFPA and executing agency staff and for government project personnel.

81. Mr. NOBLE (Canada) welcomed the increasing emphasis the Fund was placing on monitoring and evaluation, especially as those activities related to the design of new projects and programmes. Canada would encourage UNFPA to apply those guidelines as quickly as possible so as to facilitate monitoring and evaluation as truly effective management tools.

82. His delegation was, however, concerned about four areas, on which it had questions to raise. Firstly, separate country programme reviews were being superseded by Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercises. Would evaluation of country programmes continue to be given adequate priority, so as to facilitate effective future programming? Secondly, the evaluation of country programmes indicated that many programmes had consisted of a collection of individual projects, rather than a coherent programme of population activities. That appeared to be a significant deficiency, which his delegation assumed was being dealt with through PRSD. Thirdly, it was disconcerting that UNFPA had found it difficult to get access to the results of internal evaluations undertaken in the field. What were the precise reasons for that situation? Lastly, the evaluation report mentioned deficiencies in integrating population into development planning. It stated that few projects if any had succeeded in making population an integral part of development policy. While pointing out that that was a complex area of programming, the report specified a number of very basic problems in respect of project development and planning. His delegation hoped that those findings would serve as a basis for developing a more realistic approach to programming, to which such high priority was attached.

83. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) welcomed the frank and open tone of the report on evaluation. He wondered whether UNFPA had set up a time plan for implementing the training it regarded as essential and how that training would be organized. He approved of UNFPA's move to PRSD, which was likely to further the integration of evaluation into programme and policy development, and asked whether an evaluation was planned to assess the usefulness and utilization of disseminating evaluation results to the field. The United Kingdom was pleased that UNFPA intended to undertake a large-scale evaluation of population education and would like to be kept informed of the progress made. His delegation also asked how UNFPA planned to work towards resolving problems encountered by WHO in implementing the EMRO and AFRO programmes and how evaluation results and recommendations were likely to be translated into practice.

84. Ms. MAGUIRE (United States) commended UNFPA for giving increased attention in recent years to evaluation and was particularly pleased that the Fund had invited the United States Agency for International Development (AID) to collaborate in several UNFPA evaluation and programming missions, including those to Mexico, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. AID would welcome other joint missions of that nature in the future.

85. From UNFPA's report, it appeared that internal evaluations were not yet being completed routinely for every project and that the quality of such evaluations varied greatly. Her delegation would like to know whether UNFPA planned to require regular internal evaluations of all its projects beyond self-evaluation and whether they were the subject of standard instructions or guidelines which might result in more consistent quality.

86. With regard to the dissemination of evaluation results, her delegation would be glad to receive UNFPA evaluation reports on a regular basis, as well as output from the Lessons Learned Database. Such information would be extremely useful and would contribute greatly to effective co-ordination.

87. As careful evaluation was needed to programme scarce resources most effectively, AID had recently taken a number of steps to improve its own evaluation effort: recognition of the need to move beyond an assessment of project outputs and focus instead on programme impacts; creation of an evaluation working group within the Office of Population and establishment at a later date of a separate evaluation unit; and planning for six country-programme impact evaluations in 1990-1991. The Demographic and Health Surveys programme was an extremely useful tool for population-programme evaluation. Such nationally representative surveys provided a multitude of indicators on contraceptive knowledge, practice and accessibility, as well as retrospective measures of fertility and infant and child mortality. Thirty-four surveys of that nature had been completed by 1985, and 25 others were planned for the next several years. The United States welcomed continued co-operation with UNFPA in the area and further discussions on ways of using data for programme evaluation and improvement.

88. Mrs. KRAUER MULLER (Switzerland) said that in order to prosper and improve, any long-term venture must be able to benefit from a critical look at the past, and for that reason her delegation attached great importance to providing the co-operation agencies it supported with an effective evaluation system, enabling them not only to identify past successes and mistakes but also to understand and use those findings in order to improve their programmes. Her delegation commended the secretariat for the informative and critical report on evaluation and suggested that such a report should be submitted to the Governing Council every two years. The Fund appeared to have an exemplary system for feeding evaluation results back into the programming process, at least in theory. If the system was to function properly, not only must it be carefully planned, but its users must also be alive to its usefulness and know how it worked, and that called for appropriate training. Her delegation therefore hoped that UNFPA's efforts in that direction would soon achieve concrete results. The results of evaluations must also be made widely available to the government officials in charge of population programmes, so that they could take them into account in the overall framework of their activities.

89. Her delegation would like to have information from the secretariat about UNFPA's policy in deciding on evaluation themes and timetables, and about the survey methods used.

90. Her Government appreciated the frankness with which the recent evaluation results had been summarized in the second part of the report; although often very critical, the report did not always indicate precisely how UNFPA or its partners planned to take those findings into account to improve their services. Switzerland would be glad to have information on that subject from the competent multilateral agencies, in particular WHO and ILO, if possible through the representatives of those bodies at the current session.

91. Miss PRADEL (Federal Republic of Germany) noted with satisfaction that the information obtained from the Lessons Learned Database would be backed up by monitoring mechanisms and training plans and that evaluation and programming were automatically linked to the Programme Review and Strategy Development activities. Clearly, the guidelines concerning monitoring and evaluation must help to improve project evaluation and should be incorporated in the project descriptions. It was essential that the guidelines should be applied by independent experts and not by local project management staff. It would be useful to determine on a country-by-country basis whether the field offices were able to provide the independent experts desired.

92. Mr. EL FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation reserved the right to speak on document DP/1990/49 later.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 29 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

CONTENTS

United Nations Population Fund (*continued*)

(a) Special report to the General Assembly through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

(b) Report of the Executive Director on 1989 activities (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (agenda item 6) (continued)

(a) SPECIAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (DP/1990/44) (continued)

(b) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1989 ACTIVITIES (DP/1990/45, Parts I, II and III; DP/1990/46, Parts I and II) (continued)

1. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) said that the report and statement by the Executive Director of UNFPA focused attention on the enormity and urgency of the population problem. His delegation was encouraged by the account it had received of UNFPA activities, and, in particular, welcomed the continuing improvement in expenditure performance, the increased concentration of resources in sub-Saharan Africa and the continued emphasis on the question of women in development.

2. The Executive Director's report referred to a number of studies and reviews undertaken by UNFPA. It might be of value to the Governing Council if in future years the Fund could include in its documentation a short list of the studies undertaken, and, if there was sufficient demand, an abstract of each study.

3. In her statement the Executive Director of UNFPA had referred to the critical problem of support for local salaries and other recurrent costs. He asked for clarification of UNFPA's current position on that issue, and for its views on how the problem should be tackled in the future.

4. Among the important conclusions emerging from the Amsterdam Declaration were: the need to create a greater awareness of population issues in the international community; the need to examine means of increasing the effectiveness of population programmes; the importance of co-ordinating population activities at both country and international levels; and the need for increased resources for population assistance. With regard to the first of those issues, UNFPA had a vital role to play. To cite just one example, the 1990 State of World Population report had been frequently quoted in a debate on the relationship between poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation and population growth held in the Upper Chamber of the United Kingdom Parliament the previous week.

5. With regard to the effectiveness of aid, he stressed the importance his delegation attached to evaluation. The report on agency support costs (DP/1990/9) had been critical not only of the agencies undertaking the United Nations technical co-operation programme, but also of UNFPA itself. His delegation welcomed UNFPA's honest and positive response to that report, and its proposals for reshaping the procedures for entrusting work to the agencies. It also noted the recommendation that more work should be entrusted to NGOs. What emerged from the report was, firstly, that the funds devoted to technical co-operation must secure the objective of that co-operation, and secondly, that the aid delivered must be cost-effective, with competitive proposals sought from those entrusted with its execution.

6. With regard to co-ordination, his delegation reiterated the importance of co-ordination at the country level. Following the DAC meeting the previous month, the United Kingdom had written to DAC, suggesting that it might wish to pursue the question of co-ordination at the country level with UNFPA and the World Bank, identifying a list of countries on which efforts to improve co-ordination could be focused and determining which agency should take the lead in that process.

7. On the question of co-ordination at the international level, his delegation did not advocate creating a new mechanism for that purpose. Such questions were best dealt with on a specific basis. UNFPA was to be commended for its efforts to improve co-ordination among the various agencies, and for its positive response to General Assembly resolution 44/211. It was to be hoped that some of its sister agencies would adopt a similar positive attitude. His delegation welcomed the joint letter to UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO field offices, and supported the proposal by Denmark that a report should be submitted to the following session of the Governing Council on collaboration between UNICEF and UNFPA. It was important that WHO and the World Bank should be included in that report, for while the will to improve co-ordination existed at senior management level at Headquarters, the situation at the field level was often quite different.

8. With regard to resources for population assistance, his delegation agreed that more resources were required for population, and felt that it was incumbent on all parties - recipient Governments, donors, the private sector and NGOs - to make extra resources available. Some donors were not very active in that field; the European Community, for example, should direct more of its available resources towards population activities, and increase population awareness in the Community. Understanding of population issues among the regional development banks, and in particular the African Development Bank, also left something to be desired. The United Kingdom had long been an active participant in population assistance and would remain a sizeable donor. The United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration was currently examining how more could be done in that field.

9. Almost as important as the need to increase population resources was the need to increase population awareness, not only in the developing countries, but also within the aid agencies themselves. Increased awareness of the relationship between population and development might lead to an increased commitment to providing resources under bilateral as well as multilateral programmes. The United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration had held its first staff training seminar on that question the previous week. The work undertaken by the Centre for Population Studies of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine was also worthy of mention. His Government had recently launched a five-year support programme for research and training in two population-related programmes at the Centre, one on population and health, the other on population and aging.

10. In concluding her statement the previous day, the Executive Director of UNFPA had stressed the need to translate words into effective and sustained action. His delegation fully endorsed that remark, expressed its confidence in UNFPA's ability to tackle the many problems that lay ahead, and assured the Fund of its full support.

11. Mr. URZUA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that it was a source of great satisfaction for UNESCO to have worked in partnership with UNFPA almost from its inception. Population had been a concern in UNESCO from the outset. Its association with UNFPA had enabled it to translate a general awareness into practical technical assistance and operational projects. UNESCO was currently responsible for 102 projects in 57 countries, and the trend was towards wider coverage both of countries and of types of projects. In parallel with the growth of operational projects executed and technically assisted by UNESCO with financial support from UNFPA, UNESCO's regular programme activities in the population field had been expanded. For the 1990-1991 biennium they covered areas such as socio-cultural aspects of internal and international migration, socio-cultural factors affecting fertility change, women as agents of change, changes in family structure and function, population aging, and population, environment and sustainable development. Population activities were now spread over most major sectors of UNESCO. The number and variety of those activities had increased the need for co-ordination and integration, both at headquarters and in the regions. Accordingly, new structures for managing population projects had been created and were now being put to use.

12. For UNESCO, discussion of support costs and new ways of organizing United Nations technical assistance in the population field could not be divorced from the developments he had just summarized. The major outstanding problem was the need to make the fullest possible use of the technical capacity and field experience of the agencies and at the same time to strengthen co-ordination of activities throughout the United Nations system. UNFPA and the agencies were now starting to discuss that delicate subject. At the present juncture, he wished to state only that any new arrangement should be based on a clear division of labour between funding sources, technical agencies and executants. In that regard, at its 134th meeting the Executive Board of UNESCO had recently approved resolution EX/16, which (1) urged the UNDP Governing Council and the Administrator to ensure the full utilization of the technical and management capacities of the United Nations system at all stages of the programme and project cycle; (2) reiterated its support for the optimal utilization of the government execution modality; and (3) stressed, however, its view that the substantive backstopping of that modality should be provided by United Nations agencies and that adequate compensation should be foreseen for that in any new support cost arrangements.

13. He believed that those principles were endorsed by UNFPA and the agencies. At present, however, they were a long way from agreement on a specific arrangement. Such an agreement would doubtless be reached, but when and on what basis were still open questions.

14. Mr. ELGHADUTH (Mauritania) said that the population explosion had become an unavoidable fact of modern life, as had the basic aspiration of all nations and peoples to attain decent living standards. It was thus necessary to take vigorous action to halt the demographic, ecological and development crisis.

15. The reduction of tension in the world and the search for solutions to the various local and regional conflicts, in particular via the impending super-Power summit, were promoting a more stable and secure international environment, more conducive to economic and social development. His country was encouraged by the consensus reached at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to International Economic Co-operation, in

particular to the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries. It hoped that the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Conference on Environment and Development and the International Population Meeting would reach concerted decisions on action to be taken.

16. He wished to stress the crucial importance of population problems in that regard. In all development strategies, constant priority must be given to questions regarding fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, education, and the eradication of all contagious diseases, and not simply AIDS. In order to meet that crucial challenge, the international community must make available to UNFPA the necessary resources to enable it to assist and advise Governments in implementing the most appropriate strategies to halt the population explosion, which was becoming a matter for alarm among all sections of public opinion.

17. In its 21 years of existence, UNFPA had demonstrated its viability and the usefulness and relevance of its mandate, and had managed to establish a firm financial basis. It was interesting to note that the African countries had been the largest group voluntarily to increase their contributions to the Fund, an increase which bore witness to the importance they attached to its activities. Mauritania welcomed the many forms of co-operation that linked it to UNFPA, and, as a priority country, considered itself entitled to benefit from fuller and more extensive co-operation in the future. It also welcomed the decisions of the Governing Council to give high priority to the pressing problems of the African continent, which was still the second beneficiary of the Fund's resources. His delegation called for the full and rapid implementation of those decisions.

18. Africa, which was already seriously indebted and malnourished, essentially because of the poor remuneration it received for its exports, was experiencing unprecedented rates of population growth. The situation called for action, particularly as economic and social development planning and integration of population factors in that planning were recent approaches requiring resources and expertise that were generally lacking.

19. The population of Africa was currently estimated at 750 million and was growing at around 3 per cent annually. That spectacular growth would increase still further, with Africa's population numbering 1 billion in 15 years and 1.5 billion in less than 40 years, on the basis of an average of projections. That growth was attributable to a mortality rate that, while still high in comparison with the rest of the world, was falling, and to a fertility rate that had remained high for a number of years, stimulated in particular by a young population. However, as the most recent crisis in the 1980s had shown, agricultural production had been unable to keep pace with population growth. Drought and desertification had had profound effects on much of Africa during the past two decades. In Mauritania, and elsewhere in Africa, efforts were under way to ascertain their effects on population, and to attempt to reduce the rural exodus and the rapid, not to say anarchic, growth of towns when they recurred. The results of the various surveys contained in the report by the Population Commission showed a definite increase in awareness, attitudes and actions on the part of African peoples and Governments concerning population policies. Examples included the adoption by the Heads of African States

in 1984 of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-reliant Development, the recommendations of the Bucharest World Population Plan of Action in 1974, reiterated in Mexico City in 1984, and the Damascus and Amman Conferences.

20. Mauritania was currently investigating the possibilities of government action targeted on couples and opinion-formers, with a view to finding a policy acceptable to all. Ultimately, however, whatever measures were taken by Governments, couples had a sacrosanct right to decide. Efforts must thus be focused on what was attainable, and not on projects or concepts alien to the African continent. In that regard, his delegation had read with great interest the section of the report on support by UNFPA for socio-cultural research to take account of the differing attitudes, beliefs and customs in different regions regarding fertility and family planning. The ultimate objective must be to educate populations so as to enable couples to plan their families freely and responsibly. Technical co-operation between developing countries and exchanges of experience by the various countries of the region could and must play a role in that process.

21. His delegation had also read with interest the chapters of the report dealing with the relationship between population and poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease and the external debt crisis, together with its corollary, structural adjustment. If those problems and constraints received the attention they deserved and were acted upon, the nature and dimension of population problems in Africa could be expected to change in the coming years.

22. Mr. KOSTMAYER (Population Institute) said that he was addressing the Governing Council not as a member of the United States delegation or as a representative of his Government, but as an observer with the delegation of the Population Institute, an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. From the United States he brought good wishes, but no money. He hoped next year to bring both. There were some who said that he should not be making those remarks today, yet he could not refrain from protesting at the fact that the United States delegation continued to involve itself in deliberations to shape UNFPA's future but had failed to contribute a single cent to the Fund for the past five years. Nor had the official United States statement the previous day offered any plausible explanation for that failure to contribute. The facts were the following: the previous year, Congress had voted to fund UNFPA, but President Bush had vetoed the foreign aid bill making those funds available. While voluntary family planning enjoyed the support of a majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the attempt to work out a compromise enabling the United States to support that crucial international effort had failed. There was strong support for voluntary family planning throughout the United States and in Congress, even among many who for reasons of conscience opposed abortion. They supported voluntary family planning because they recognized the difference.

23. The current Administration, like the Reagan Administration preceding it, continued to oppose funding for UNFPA, ostensibly because of the controversial nature of the Chinese programme. Even when United States dollars were held in a segregated UNFPA account, with none of the dollars going to UNFPA programmes in China and none of the funds being used for abortion in China or anywhere else in the world, the Administration, fearful of the anti-choice forces in the United States, still denied assistance to the largest multilateral provider of voluntary family planning funds in the world.

24. The United States Congress was currently contemplating legislation, sponsored by over 130 members of Congress from both parties, to double United States population assistance to $US 500 million for voluntary family planning the following year. Sixty million dollars of that amount was to be solely for the use of UNFPA. In his view, Congress would enact that legislation.

25. The relationship of population to every issue facing mankind - the environment, resources, nutrition, housing, education, employment, health and peace itself - was obvious. In the past year, the world had watched the face of Europe change. In both the Soviet Union and the United States, private citizens and public figures were calling for reduced spending on the international arms race. Sentiment in the United States Congress was the same; the world was visibly changing. The time had come to refocus energies, to turn and face the problems that had been ignored for a decade, for the problems bearing down so cruelly on the third world must before long bear down on the industrialized countries, unless they provided help for those suffering in the world's poorest lands.

26. It was with some embarrassment, then, that he was addressing the Council, embarrassed by the unwillingness of the United States Administration to contribute to such a worth-while venture. Those in the NGOs, in Congress and in every part of the United States who shared the Council's dream of a stable and just world would continue to fight for UNFPA funding because they knew that their country's proper place was as a partner in international efforts to solve one of the great international problems. While its absence was shameful, it was only temporary, and it would return with more than just good wishes. In the meantime, he urged UNFPA to continue the struggle, for without its efforts, generosity and commitment, the level of human suffering and misery would be much greater than it now was.

27. Ms. DRZEWIENIECKA (Poland) said that her country's work on demographic and social policies was already benefiting from the in-depth analysis undertaken by UNFPA. Her delegation welcomed the Amsterdam Declaration, entitled "A better life for future generations" and adopted by the International Forum in November 1989, which highlighted important issues such as responsibility to future generations, the inextricable links between population, resources and the environment, the need for rapid action to slow population growth, particularly in the developing countries, the need to enhance the status and position of women, and the need for recognition of the fact that the main objective of social and economic development - of which population policies and programmes formed an integral part - was to improve the quality of life of the population. Her delegation acknowledged the great importance of the Amsterdam Declaration and was convinced that it would find a worthy follow-up in the work of the United Nations on the new International Development Strategy for the 1990s.

28. Her delegation hoped that the Amsterdam Declaration would contribute to the enhancement of programme effectiveness at both the national and international levels, and to the mobilization of the resources required for their implementation. The Declaration made it abundantly clear how important population problems were for the future of the development process.

29. During the previous decade, economic development in Poland had been slowed and sometimes even reversed by very grave problems. The current very difficult situation was temporary, however, and it was the hope of her delegation that the Polish economy would stabilize in a few years' time. In the meantime, the Government was attempting to lessen the negative impact of deteriorating material conditions on the health of the population and on family planning. During the 1980s, female fertility had dropped in Poland. In 1989, the fertility rate of women of reproduction age had been 2.1, which represented no more than the replacement of a generation. The birth rate had fallen from 19.7 per thousand in 1983 to 14.9 per thousand in 1989, which meant that in Poland controlled fertility was gradually increasing. Infant mortality had declined from 20.5 per thousand live births in 1980 to 15.9 in 1989. However, it was still higher than in other European countries.

30. The increase in the mortality rate of men of productive age during the 1980s represented a serious demographic problem. That situation was the result of an increased number of deaths from the diseases of civilization, such as heart disease, cancer, poisoning and trauma. A very unfavourable development had been the increase in the number of premature deaths between the ages of 45 and 64.

31. Poland, like all other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, was currently grappling with increasingly serious problems linked to diseases of civilization resulting in part from the effects of pollution. More than 30 per cent of the Polish population lived in regions affected by the ecological crisis, and in those areas more and more children were born with birth defects and low weight. Environmental pollution was also reflected in the increased susceptibility of children and adults to many diseases. In addition, health problems were linked with the aging process in Polish society and with the increase in the number of handicapped persons. According to demographic forecasts, the population of Poland would increase by 1.6 million people by the year 2000, when the population over 45 years of age would have increased by almost 2.3 million. The number of invalids was growing rapidly. According to the latest national census of 1989, the number of invalids had risen to 3.7 million, in other words, one citizen in 10. That phenomenon affected not only Poland but also other European countries. It was therefore essential to prepare programmes which would cover the entire problem of handicapped persons, including early treatment and rehabilitation, vocational reorientation, employment, housing and full social integration. The specialized agencies should initiate interdisciplinary research programmes in co-operation with interested countries or groups of countries which were faced by the same problems.

32. Her Government greatly appreciated the co-operation of UNFPA and was constantly seeking to broaden the framework of such co-operation. In 1989, Poland, with the technical assistance of UNFPA, had started to implement three research programmes on fertility, infant mortality and family break-up (DP/1990/45, Part I, para. 46). Other projects were being prepared for submission to UNFPA. During the current year, the fourth training course for 25 participants from developing countries would be held in Warsaw, with the collaboration of UNFPA and the Department of Technical Co-operation and Development, on the subject of the application of demographic forecasts to economic and social planning. Thus Poland's joint projects with UNFPA were also of benefit to the developing countries. In that connection, she would

like to emphasize her Government's interest in an increase in the number of UNFPA national projects in Poland, as well as a more substantial commitment to activities at the regional (European) and interregional levels.

33. Poland had acquired considerable experience in co-ordinated research on demographic problems and was ready to share the results of such studies with other countries. In her view, there were as yet unexploited possibilities for co-operation in that field. That was also true of the participation of Polish experts in UNFPA field work.

34. Mr. ALBERTS (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that he would address three issues, namely, agency support costs, the Amsterdam Declaration, and the evaluation report.

35. On the first issue, FAO appreciated UNFPA's invitation to discuss alternatives and options, the need for national execution and the use of the technical capacity of the specialized agencies. No agreement had yet been reached on specific arrangements, but FAO would define its position in fresh discussions to be held in the near future.

36. In the view of FAO, the Amsterdam Declaration was a document of outstanding quality. The reasons given in the document for the lack of complementarity between development policies and population policies were understandable but not complete. Development policies in general were well designed but in many developing countries such policies were urban-biased. If population policies were integrated into development policies which were urban-biased, the result would be that population programmes would not reach certain sectors of the population. Such was the case in a number of Asian countries, where the forestry and fisheries sectors were not reached by population policies because those sectors were not included in development plans. In the Philippines, for example, more than 40 per cent of the population lived in forestry and fishing communities and had not been reached by population activities. Those were the most vulnerable and poorest groups in the country. FAO had taken initiatives in co-operation with UNFPA to develop programmes to address that issue and those should be followed up by larger projects. FAO believed that UNFPA's programme review mission should devote more attention to the problem of urban bias in development planning; in that connection, FAO was prepared to give early technical advice on the population factor in the world development process.

37. The evaluation report prepared by UNFPA on the agencies' intercountry programmes had been very useful. FAO had emerged well from the evaluation and had agreed to the recommendations made, most of which had already been implemented. It considered that such exercises should be continued. It was not sufficient, however, to look only at interregional programmes; regional activities and country programmes should be given more attention so that the whole gamut of population programme activities, from the interregional to the regional and country levels, could be looked at as a whole. Such an overview would indicate to UNFPA exactly what was going on in the whole programme and the Fund would therefore be in a better position to assist FAO in building up technical capacity at the regional and country levels.

38. The report referred to weaknesses in the FAO population programme and, in particular, said that it provided no comprehensive framework for population and development. In the view of FAO, there was no way in which such a

comprehensive framework could be developed. Moreover, it was unfortunate that the consultant in the UNFPA-funded team had not had time to look at all the FAO studies which included population elements, such as the studies on women in agriculture and on landlessness. The report was, therefore, not sufficiently balanced. Lastly, the mission had concluded that FAO should do a better job in designing national population policies. That was not the job of FAO, which could only give technical assistance to Governments in the identification of potential demographic programmes. FAO could support UNFPA programmes by incorporating population information, education and communication activities in all rural development projects, but it was not an agency which could design population policies.

39. Mr. ABDEL (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to reaffirm the central role of UNFPA in the domain of population policies and programmes. The population question was closely interrelated with many other issues, including that of the balance between the current use of resources and future resource requirements. In the case of Africa, the population question constituted an urgent priority which called for increased international support, particularly from UNFPA, because of Africa's problems of drought, desertification, natural disasters, external indebtedness, and the vulnerability of the institutional and physical infrastrucutre.

40. For many years past, Egypt had adopted a comprehensive national population policy designed to disseminate information on family planning and the provision of the means of family planning in the light of the prevailing religious and cultural values in Egyptian society. The Government had also provided equal education and job opportunities for women so that they would become equal partners in the development process. An increasing proportion of the national budget had been devoted to population activities.

41. Co-operation between Egypt and UNFPA had crystallized in two forms. First, the International Centre for Islamic Population Studies and Research, affiliated to Al-Azhar University and co-financed by UNFPA, had organized two seminars in 1989, one in Fez (Morocco) and the other in Sana'a (United Yemeni Republic). Both seminars had addressed the position of Islam on population policies. Secondly, the Cairo Demographic Centre, supported by UNFPA, provided international scholarships, including scholarships at the Ph.D. level.

42. In the Arab context, Egypt had participated actively and at the highest level in both the second Arab parliamentary conference on people and development, held in Syria in September 1989, and the Arab Ministerial Conference on Population, Women and Environment, held in Jordan in October 1989.

43. Mr. EJIOGU (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) said that the Department was UNFPA's largest executing agency and was currently deeply involved in developing national and interregional projects which addressed various populations issues. The Department's technical advisers continued to provide services to UNFPA programme review and strategy development, project formulation and evaluation, in addition to backstopping country programmes in the areas of data collection and processing, demographic training and research, population dynamics, and population policy and development planning.

44. The Department's strategy of supporting more effective national programme execution consisted primarily in helping to develop national capacities and expertise in various population fields through short-term and long-term training. The goal was to enlist the fullest possible participation of national experts and consultants in programme execution. Those processes had resulted in building up the skills of national personnel in the areas of the Department's mandate so that full responsibility for the execution of their own programmes could be transferred to such personnel at the earliest possible moment. Evidence of the success of that approach could be seen in the continuing decline in the number of long-term resident United Nations advisers and experts working on country projects and in the concomitant increase in projects which relied almost exclusively on national expertise.

45. The Department's recent efforts had been directed at closing gaps in the methodology for integrating population into development, as highlighted in UNFPA's report on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration (DP/1990/44). The Department had developed a new macro-demo-economic simulation model for planning which took into account the effects of selected key socio-economic factors on mortality, fertility and migration. The model promised to offer at least a partial solution to the single-sector approach to population policy formulation.

46. Other activities included interregional programmes and projects designed to meet country needs, such as the Cairo Demographic Centre, which provided a full range of post-graduate training in population and development, and population dynamics, and the United Nations/USSR training programme, which provided short-term training in population and development to middle- and higher-level planning personnel from developing countries.

47. The Department believed that special consideration should be given to the continued full and effective utilization of the highly trained and experienced pool of human resources already available in the various United Nations agencies, and was pleased to see that UNFPA's proposals pointed in the same direction. The Department's overall programme to date responded to the goals set out in the World Population Plan of Action, as reaffirmed in the Amsterdam Declaration.

48. Lessons learned from the 1980 round of population censuses had guided the Department in building into the design of the 1990 round special programmes on data collection, analysis and dissemination. Increased efforts had been made to assist Governments in conducting population and housing censuses as part of the 1990 round of censuses and in processing and analysing the census data through the use of computer technology. Considerable strides had been made in building up national self-reliance and transfer of technology through human resource development. The overall thrust of technical co-operation in population activities in the future would continue to be the development of national human resources and institutional capacity for self-reliance, particularly in the African region.

49. In response to Governing Council decision 89/50, concerted efforts had been made in 1989 to include women's concerns in all population projects assisted by the Department. For example, at the 1989/90 session of the Cairo Demographic Centre, 33 per cent of the students had been women and 42 per cent of trainees in the United Nations/USSR programme had been women. The latter programme devoted a course to the subject of women and socio-economic development and employed women consultants.

50. Progress had been made in obtaining special tabulations by sex of demographic and socio-economic data collected through sample surveys and censuses. A microcomputer-based model on women in development, particularly in rural agricultural settings, had been developed. As empirical data became available, the validity of the model would be tested and modified as necessary. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize the full support of the Department for the substantive priorities in population set forth in the Amsterdam Declaration and for those measures envisaged to strengthen further the technical co-operation between donors and technical agencies, on the one hand, and the developing countries, on the other.

51. Mr. TABAH (France) associated his delegation with those delegations which had expressed support for the general objectives of UNFPA, even though France's multilateral contribution might appear to be low by comparison with that of other industrialized countries. The contribution for 1990, however, was more than double that in 1988 and he hoped that it would continue to increase substantially in future years.

52. There were several ways of helping the third-world countries to achieve their population objectives and France intended to provide fresh support for African countries which had requested assistance in implementing the recommendations of the Conferences in Bucharest, Mexico City and Amsterdam. In the case of requests approved by his Government, France proposed to entrust UNFPA with management of the resources which it would make available to Governments for training in population matters or for activities designed to decrease mortality rates, to correct geographically unbalanced population distribution and to encourage family planning.

53. His delegation reiterated its support for the Declaration on international economic co-operation and, in particular, the revitalization of economic growth and development, in paragraph 25 of which the importance of population policies for human welfare and fruitful development had been stressed. In that connection, his delegation intended to submit proposals on the control of demographic growth to the forthcoming Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It would further express the hope that UNFPA would strengthen its activities to assist the least developed countries.

54. His delegation hoped that UNFPA would play an active part in the preparations for the proposed International Meeting on Population in 1994 and the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade, where population issues should be given the place they deserved.

55. The periodic report on evaluation (DP/1990/49) was clear and frank, and provided very useful information on evaluation activities. In his delegation's opinion, it should be distributed not only to experts and decision-makers but also within the international scientific community. In general, little progress had been made to date in integrating the population variable in development planning, although considerable resources had been devoted to that endeavour. In that connection, it might be asked whether a series of activities had been initiated without sufficient preparation in relation to concepts and methods. However, the action had not been in vain since it had at least aroused interest in population questions among planners and researchers. In his opinion, it would be useful if the same critical

evaluation was made concerning the influence of family planning programmes on demographic development, an area which was as difficult as that of integration and about which little was known.

56. His delegation welcomed the fact that UNFPA was according so much importance to the status of women and hoped that it would do so in close co-ordination with the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Women should be removed from male domination by modifying the arbitrary distribution of roles in the family. They should be enabled to produce and create, and not merely to procreate.

57. His delegation had been favourably impressed by the report on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration (DP/1990/44). It fully supported the Amsterdam Declaration and wished to draw attention to two essential ideas. The first was that never before had the importance of the influence of population factors on development been so strongly confirmed. Genuine development could no longer be considered in the third world without demographic transition and it was clear that the countries which made that transition most rapidly would be the best placed in international economic co-operation. The second idea was that a large portion of the third world, composed almost entirely of least developed countries, was excluded from development. Since that considerable population had not yet undergone a genuine demographic transition, it would double in size by the year 2025. Efforts should therefore be made to provide information and education on contraception to that population if demographic growth was to be slowed over the long term. In the second half of the next century, population growth would occur essentially in the least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. His delegation therefore endorsed the priority given by UNFPA to programmes concerning those countries.

58. At the practical level, UNFPA should endeavour to devise activities aimed at removing the least developed countries from that category. His delegation suggested actions relating to the following four fields, which had not always received the attention of UNFPA. First of all, more work should be done in relation to the increase in mortality in tropical countries. Clearly, there had been an increase in malaria, threatening at least 1.7 billion inhabitants of tropical regions. The dramatic emergence of AIDS on the epidemiological scene gave cause for growing concern. Sociological and family structures in sub-Saharan Africa made its populations particularly vulnerable. The effects of AIDS on the demographic situation must be evaluated, particularly since the amount of budgetary resources devoted to health in the poor countries continued to decline.

59. Secondly, consideration should be given to the question of migratory trends. The absorptive capacity of industrial countries was limited, whereas the demand for immigration to rich countries was steadily increasing.

60. Thirdly, the world as a whole was clearly witnessing an aging process, which had begun mainly in the rich countries but was also becoming apparent in the poor countries. In that connection, the latter were not prepared to deal with the process's economic and social consequences. It was often said that Africa had a great many other problems to overcome, but given the fact that the number of persons over 60 would increase from 27 to 101 million by the year 2025, it was clear that the continent would not escape the problem. The experience of the rich countries showed that it was a matter which must be

dealt with in an anticipatory spirit. It was not enough to be concerned about population growth; it was also necessary to take account of changes in the population structure caused by factors which swelled the apex of the age pyramid.

61. Fourthly, reference must be made to the question of the interrelationship between population, the environment, food and energy. The harsh truth was that it was becoming impossible to narrow the gap between rich countries and poor countries within the system of economic and social organization of the rich countries. Many developing countries were going to become industrialized without having the financial resources to deal with environmental problems. The effects of demographic growth on the environment must be evaluated, as had been pointed out by the representatives of Canada and Finland. Consideration must be given to questions such as the air people would breathe and the water they would drink in the next century if 7 billion humans were to become industrailized in accordance with their legitimate aspirations.

62. It was in those four areas that the greatest changes were taking place in the world and it was essential that UNFPA should include them in its programme of action. The current session had witnessed a new development which was most welcome, namely, the co-ordination undertaken by UNFPA with bodies working in related fields, such as WHO, UNICEF, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the World Bank.

63. Mr. SYARIEF (Observer for Indonesia) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the excellent work done by UNFPA in formulating and implementing its many important activities for the benefit of mankind. It was encouraging to note that world-wide acceptance of the population question as an integral part of the overall development plans and programmes was increasing. At the same time, however, general concern had been expressed at the rate of expansion of the world's population predicted over the following decade. The United Nations had estimated that the population would have increased to more than 6.2 billion by the year 2000. Such a situation would, of course, hinder the development process of many countries. Population problems must therefore be addressed quantitatively with a view to decelerating population growth while concurrently trying to convert population from a liability into an asset by improving its quality through human resources development.

64. In terms of the management of resources, such population growth could impede countries' limited capacity to maintain development and could seriously threaten social and political stability. That grim prospect would be worsened if scientific and technological advances were to cease. Consequently, the objectives of the world population plan and UNFPA's wide-ranging review and assessment exercise were increasingly relevant for the contemporary world. In his delegation's opinion, the Fund's activities, which were successfully increasing awareness of population problems, should be actively supported by all countries. It would be useful if Governments endorsed the Amsterdam Declaration since it could be incorporated into the development policies of individual countries. His delegation supported the general thrust of the Executive Director's recommendations relating to the Declaration and felt that it was important to take into account the limited resources of developing nations.

65. As the world's fifth most populous nation, Indonesia, faced with the difficulties involved in absorbing new entrants into the labour force, had formulated a national five-year plan (1989-1994) which sought to reduce the population growth rate to 1.9 per cent and stressed human resources development. Indonesia appreciated UNFPA's efforts in helping to resolve its population problems through the fourth cycle of UNFPA assistance. It was pleased to note the recommendation (by the UNFPA mission to evaluate the population programme in Indonesia) that priority assistance was needed in order to achieve the programme's objectives. His delegation hoped that the Governing Council would support that recommendation.

66. He supported the efforts made by the Fund and all nations to enhance priority action under the population programme, *inter alia*, by strengthening national human resources.

67. Mr. ISTODE (Romania) said his delegation was pleased to note that UNFPA had accelerated the rate of implementation in 1989 and that, as a result, the unexpended balance of general resources had decreased considerably. His delegation hoped that the Fund would continue to pursue that policy with due regard to the balance between income and expenditure. His delegation welcomed the increase in the resources allocated to the country programme and priority countries.

68. The year 1989, which had marked the twentieth anniversary of the Fund, had been remarkable in many respects. Encouraging progress had been made in reducing political conflicts and strengthening national independence and radical political changes had occurred in Eastern Europe. Following the December 1989 revolution, his country was more interested than ever in developing co-operation with UNFPA on a multilateral basis. In that connection, it was pleased to see that a UNFPA co-operation project concerning a population census in Romania was being formulated and hoped that it could soon be implemented. With regard to a visit to Romania paid in March 1990 by a joint UNFPA-WHO-IPPF delegation, which had resulted in an agreement on the possibile initiation of a two-year family planning project, his delegation looked forward to seeing that initiative take the form of a concrete operational activity. His delegation considered that the work plan for 1991-1994 would ensure the efficient use of available resources and fully supported it.

69. With regard to the proposed 1994 international meeting on population, his delegation agreed that it would help to consolidate the commitment of the entire international community to population considerations at a time when decisive action in that field could make a major difference in the next century. Some delegations had mentioned at a previous meeting the importance of the first World Population Conference held in Bucharest in 1974 and its impact on development/population activities. It was true that the Conference had resulted in general recognition of the importance of population factors as an integral part of economic and social development. In his delegation's opinion, that recognition would be reconfirmed in 1994.

70. Dr. PETROS-BARVAZIAN (World Health Organization) said that over the years collaboration between WHO and UNFPA had increased in both scope and intensity. She wished to refer to a number of activities in which her organization had collaborated with UNFPA. The concepts, policies and approaches involved in technical issues concerning family planning, as

perceived by WHO, UNFPA and other partners in the United Nations system, had become closer, which had facilitated her organization's task. The most urgent issue at the present time was how to improve the implementation of maternal and child health/family planning (MCH/FP), particularly at the country level. WHO would be pleased to participate in the preparation of a paper to be submitted on that question for consideration by the Governing Council at its next session.

71. WHO was constitutionally entrusted with responsibility for monitoring global health trends, identifying growing health concerns, promoting international and national awareness of those problems, and bringing attention and resources to bear on them. In recent years, considerable efforts had been made to increase awareness of the problem of maternal health and mortality, which had resulted in the mobilization of substantial international resources for country-level studies and intervention to prevent maternal mortality. Another example was the promotion of adolescent health, including reproductive health.

72. In connection with the recent session of the World Health Assembly, the Director-General had organized a special plenary meeting on the economic realities and health development problems of least developed countries. At the meeting, attention had been drawn to the interrelationship between health and population, including the health benefits of family planning, and stress had been laid on the need for specific action to enhance the status of women and improve MCH/FP programmes as a key investment for least developed countries.

73. At the recent meeting of the child survival task force, held in Bangkok in March, the common goals of WHO and UNICEF had been extended to include issues concerning family planning, safe motherhood, improved status of women, and improved education and nutrition for girls, lactating and pregnant women. She wished to thank UNFPA for its continued support in those areas, which complemented the action covered by the regular budget of WHO and other extra-regular resources.

74. As to the evaluation of WHO's African region and eastern Mediterranean region inter-country programmes, she wished to inform the Council that WHO was very keen on built-in evaluation and welcomed frank observations from all parties concerned as an important tool for improved management, efficiency and effectiveness. In that spirit, it had collaborated closely in all evaluations undertaken so far by UNFPA.

75. With regard to paragraphs 212 and 213 of document DP/1990/45 (Part III), it was understandable that when mention was made of only one paragraph in isolation from the context of the total evaluation report of some 50 pages for the African region and about 30 pages for the eastern Mediterranean, it was bound to be somewhat misleading. However, as interest had been expressed in the Council concerning feedback and utilization of the results of the evaluation, she wished to give a few examples of the steps taken in that connection. A meeting had been organized jointly by WHO and UNFPA at the Regional Office for the African Region (AFRO) in mid-February 1990 to plan the co-ordinated country-support programme for 1990 and to follow-up specific recommendations of the evaluation requiring immediate action by AFRO, identifying the support required from WHO headquarters and specific remedial action to be taken by UNFPA in order to improve the support given to

countries. There was clearly a great need to strengthen human resources in the African region as a whole, including additional staff support in MCH/FP in the Regional Office and possibly the creation of an additional multi-disciplinary team for MCH/FP as requested by AFRO. It should be noted that, in view of the special needs of the African region, out of 60 backstopping missions from WHO headquarters for MCH/FP activities, 30 had been in that region.

76. Her organization fully supported the Amsterdam Declaration and was prepared to collaborate with UNFPA and the United Nations system with a view to achieving its goals. As to the question of government execution and programmes versus projects, WHO had encouraged government execution since 1970 and the use of national co-ordination. It would be pleased to follow UNFPA's suggestions on government execution. With respect to programme support costs, WHO agreed with the comments made by representatives from other agencies. In conclusion, she expressed her organization's readiness to act jointly with UNFPA and other partners in support of country programmes in population, health and MCH/FP.

77. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that his Government was well aware of the importance of population issues; for several years, Bulgaria had been increasing its voluntary contributions to the Fund by more than 10 per cent annually, not an easy task for a country facing a severe economic crisis. His delegation was pleased that the close relationship between population and environment had been recognized. It also noted with appreciation the joint action of UNFPA and the Government of the Netherlands in organizing the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century.

78. Bulgaria shared the view that co-ordination should be effected at the national level and should be the responsibility of the recipient Government. In that connection, it was important to take due account of local conditions, historical and cultural traditions, and other relevant factors. Furthermore, co-ordination and streamlining of activities at the international level should be sought not only by UNFPA and UNDP, but also by UNICEF, WHO and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

79. The emerging AIDS pandemic would have a major impact on population issues. In that regard, it was particularly important to give appropriate attention to maternal and child health. In the past, co-operation between Bulgaria and UNFPA had focused primarily on joint research in integrated statistical socio-demographic analyses, from which many developing countries had benefited. But the relatively high infant mortality in Bulgaria and the threat of AIDS had led his Government to devote more attention to child health care and maternity problems, and Bulgaria counted on UNFPA assistance in that respect.

80. Mr. SMALLENBROEK (Netherlands) agreed with the Executive Director of UNFPA that those countries whose population programmes were achieving maturity would require assistance on a declining scale, but wondered whether that would have any consequences for the allocation of resources. His delegation would appreciate it if the reasons for placing greater emphasis on maternal care in maternal and child health care activities could be spelt out in more detail.

81. The Executive Director had identified a number of shortcomings relating to the women's dimension in evaluations. His delegation inquired how those problems would be addressed and whether the women's dimension would also be taken into account in programme review and strategy development missions. It also wished to know whether there was a new work plan to strengthen the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women, population and development. His delegation assumed that a document on that subject would be submitted to the Governing Council in 1991.

82. His delegation agreed on the need for socio-cultural research. The Executive Director had, however, cited few examples of socio-cultural research projects in Africa, and his Government had the impression that most projects of that type were executed in Latin America and Asia.

83. Ms. CLARKE-KWESIE (Ghana) said her delegation had noted with concern that fertility rates were declining at a very slow pace and that, according to estimates, Africa's population would double over the next 23 years. Unless effectively checked, that would have serious implications for the socio-economic development of the world as a whole and the developing countries in particular. In order to grapple with their economic problems, the sub-Saharan African countries had embarked on structural adjustment programmes that entailed strict adherence to a judicious allocation of resources. At the same time, however, the decreasing revenues resulting from the decline in commodity prices were seriously affecting the resources set aside for the most vulnerable social groups.

84. Her delegation agreed on the need to intensify training for women and girls and improve their standard of living in order to make them more receptive to family plannning and birth spacing. But such activities could only be carried out if adequate funds were provided to countries hurt by sharp fluctuations in export earnings.

85. The rapid growth in the world population was a serious threat to the environment and had been a major cause of deforestation and other forms of environmental degradation. Manageable population growth rates would lead to a higher standard of living for the developing countries, and Ghana supported UNFPA efforts to achieve that goal.

86. With regard to the Amsterdam Declaration which her delegation welcomed, Ghana was strongly in favour of co-ordination in the population field, especially among the various agencies dealing with population issues. The co-ordination of national and international efforts was critical to the success of population programmes.

87. Despite two decades of family planning activities, Ghana's population growth rate remained high, and over the past few years, family planning activities had been intensified accordingly. Family planning counselling and services were currently being carried to women at their places of work. In that connection, Ghana was gratified that the resources allocated to it over the next five years, had increased substantially. Decisions on family planning and birth spacing were taken by both husband and wife, but more often than not family planning activities had been directed exclusively at women, who in practice did not have the final say in birth control matters. Her delegation advocated education and training programmes geared towards men as well.

88. Ms. BWANGA-BUGONZI (Uganda) assured the Council of her Government's full support and co-operation. Her delegation was particularly pleased that, with the assistance of UNFPA, it had been possible to launch a 10-project country programme on population in 1988.

89. Government policy measures and programme support were necessary to alter the current discouraging population trends. Her Government's goal was to lower mortality and fertility rates so as to curtail population growth and improve the quality of life of the population. Long-term changes in the reproductive behaviour of the population could be achieved by introducing relevant educational programmes at all levels, integrating maternal and child health care, family planning and nutritional services into the national health service, promoting training for women and providing adequate logistical support to para-medical and community health workers. Data from surveys and the population census must also be utilized.

90. Owing to its past history and a number of external factors beyond its control, Uganda's economic activity and real per capita GDP had continued to decline. With its relatively narrow export base, it had benefited least from demand in the industrial economies. Export earnings had also been severely affected by the weakness of oil markets and tropical-beverage prices. Like most sub-Saharan countries, Uganda was faced with a severe debt burden which, if alleviated, would enable resources to be generated for financing development programmes.

91. If sustainable development was to be achieved, it was essential to consolidate the progress made by strengthening institutional capacities already in place. For co-ordination purposes UNFPA should ensure the full participation of national experts. At the grass-roots level, the population was aware of the availability of family-planning services. A major obstacle had been the limited capacity of services to reach out to rural areas. Most women were conscious of the need to space their births, participate in economic activities, send their children to school and have them vaccinated. But because of the reduction of government expenditure in the wake of structural adjustment programmes, it had been difficult to reach all those persons who might benefit from those services.

92. While welcoming the Swiss delegation's suggestion to continue to alert men and women to the importance of such issues, her delegation stressed that the current structural adjustment programmes in developing countries should not erode the ability to provide basic services to the population, including the implementation of population programmes. That meant accelerating and expanding resource mobilization. UNDP and the specialized agencies, together with the donor community, should focus long-term efforts on education for women and girls so as to enhance their possibilities. Donors should increasingly channel their resources through the local non-governmental women's organizations so as to ensure internalization and cost effectiveness and expedite both the procurement and recruitment processes, thereby reducing the cost of project implementation.

93. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) stressed the need to assist individual countries in identifying their research priorities and supporting the national research agenda, as underscored in paragraph 17 of document DP/1990/44. Another important issue was the co-ordination of international assistance agencies in the population field and health programmes. In that context, a major

programme had just been approved for Brazil by the UNICEF Executive Board. It was to be hoped that the existing co-ordination between UNFPA and UNICEF in Brazil would be further improved. Efforts to co-ordinate the work of WHO/PAHO in Brazil, however, must be intensified, and WHO/PAHO must join the current co-ordination work of UNICEF, UNFPA and the governmental authorities in the field of technical co-operation.

94. Brazil shared the concern expressed in paragraph 27 about the need to locate a population unit within the government structure, particularly in a country of continental dimensions like Brazil. His Government was certain that a solution could be found to meet the need for a technical population unit directly linked to the existing central technical co-operation unit. Brazil favoured integrating population data collection activities into a country's statistical machinery, as referred to in paragraph 29, that goal having been attained for several years in the Brazilian Institute of Geophysics and Statistics.

95. As the host country for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Brazil supported the proposed steps to address population concerns at that Conference. National contributions to population programmes must be increased in many developing countries. Unfortunately, Brazil was facing serious debt problems and was bearing the burden of structural adjustment programmes. It was to be hoped that the efforts currently being made in Brazil would enable it to make more substantial contributions to population activities.

96. Paragraph 68 of document DP/1990/44 rightly pointed out that strategic planning and programming was the most important area that needed to be promoted in the future. The most effective way to achieve successful implementation of technical co-operation programmes with real impact on a country's development process was through strategic programming with identified priorities for programme action. In that context, his delegation welcomed the exercise that would take place in Brazil in the near future, which would give rise to the first UNFPA programme-oriented action in that country. It was to be hoped that other United Nations agencies active in Brazil would follow UNFPA's example, which was the best way to contribute to a country's development efforts.

97. Mr. NIK JAFAAR (Malaysia) said that the choice of priority programme areas outlined in the report of the Executive Director (DP/1990/45) was in line with Malaysia's national development policies. Like many other developing countries striving to improve the standard of living of their populations, Malaysia lacked the necessary expertise to undertake specific programmes in population development. Many population data had been collected in Malaysia and would be useful for drafting population programmes, but in the absence of expertise, such data, which would have greatly enhanced his Government's efforts to implement effective policies, could not be analysed or utilized. Malaysia would welcome UNFPA assistance in providing the requisite expertise.

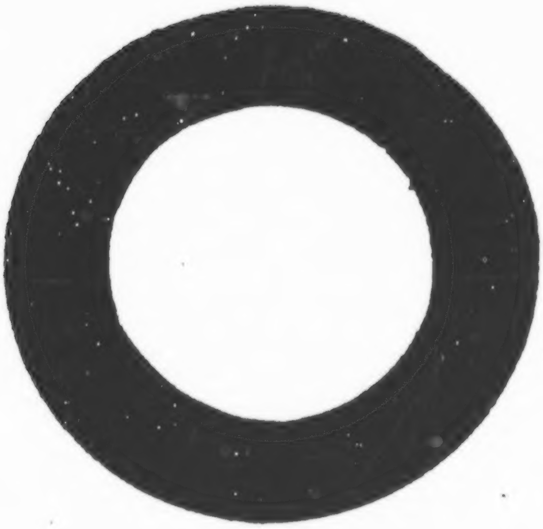
98. His delegation was impressed by the various activities undertaken by UNFPA in developing countries within the framework of the priority programme areas, particularly the efforts to identify the actual needs of each country in relation to its level of national development. Malaysia expressed its appreciation to the Fund for the assistance rendered to it and hoped that the

scope of UNFPA's work could be further expanded. It also thanked the Fund for scheduling a programme review and strategy development mission to Malaysia in June/July 1990, to assist in the preparation of the next country programme, due to be submitted to the Governing Council in 1991.

99. Although it had made progress in economic development, Malaysia still required UNFPA's support, and there were still areas in which past UNFPA efforts had not been able to reach the population because of the inadequate infrastructure. In addition, development had given rise to child and drug abuse and to problems related to youth and working-mothers. His delegation therefore urged UNFPA to give due consideration to those special needs.

100. UNFPA allocations to Malaysia had been reduced significantly from $US 6.5 million in 1983 to $US 2.1 million in 1987. It was the understanding of his delegation that, in allocating resources, UNFPA had been guided primarily by national levels of economic development. The fact that Malaysia had been able to utilize almost all the resources allocated to it under the existing country programme indicated the growing demand for UNFPA assistance. That being the case, and although Malaysia was not on the Fund's priority-country list, his Government hoped that UNFPA would consider Malaysia's needs more favourably and provide it with the appropriate allocation in the next country programme. His Government reaffirmed its full support for the work of UNFPA.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.



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Thirty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 29 May 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

CONTENTS

United Nations Population Fund (*continued*)

(a) Special report to the General Assembly through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

(b) Report of the Executive Director on 1989 activities (*continued*)

(c) Periodic report on evaluation (*continued*)

(d) Future programme of the United Nations Population Fund

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (agenda item 6) (continued)

(a) SPECIAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (DP/1990/44) (continued)

(b) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1989 ACTIVITIES (DP/1990/45, Parts I, II and III; DP/1990/46, Parts I and II) (continued)

(c) PERIODIC REPORT ON EVALUATION (DP/1990/49) (continued)

1. Mrs. CHAALAN (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country was fully aware of the scope and complexity of demographic problems and of their disastrous consequences for economic development and social well-being. The Syrian Arab Republic attached considerable importance to population activities and greatly appreciated UNFPA's activities and its assistance to countries in formulating their demographic policies and its role in making public opinion aware of population problems.

2. The world was facing a demographic explosion which could only be controlled through international co-operation; that was particularly true of the developing countries which were also confronting other complex problems involving notably the environment and the economy as well as a situation which inhibited any development strategy and prevented any improvement in the living standard of populations.

3. Her delegation was convinced that finding a solution for demographic problems was a prerequisite to any economic and social progress and it supported the resolutions and conclusions of the International Forum held in Amsterdam which had correctly identified the issues at stake and drafted a world strategy to deal with them. In those circumstances, UNFPA's work-load would inevitably increase.

4. Governments as well as the entire international community had a responsibility to improve the living standards of their populations. For that, the solidarity of UNFPA and the other competent specialized agencies was necessary, and it was therefore important to diversify the sources of funding. The Syrian delegation welcomed the increase in contributions from donor countries and agreed with the Executive Director that those contributions should be expanded still further, that other donors should be found and that the full range of resources allocated to demographic activities should be increased. With respect to bilateral financing, her delegation emphasized that, as indicated in document DP/1990/44, the criteria for selecting the recipient countries had often resulted in the concentration of bilateral resources in some countries to the detriment of others.

5. Mr. URBINA FUENTES (Observer for Mexico) said that Mexico's demographic programme reflected a close relationship with UNFPA both in respect of the support received and in the drafting and execution of the programme. It was currently in its third stage - the period 1989-1994 - within the frame of reference drawn up in 1976, and taking into account the fact that the country had a population which doubled every 67 years.

6. That programme had been successful because in 15 years the overall birth rate had been reduced from 6.3 to 3.5 and because the number of couples making use of the family planning services had increased from 900,000 in 1973 to 7.9 million in 1989. Despite those satisfactory results, however, the annual demographic growth rate was still 2.1 per cent.

7. The Government of Mexico intended to tackle the problem of extreme poverty through a national solidarity programme because it realized that it was dangerous to allow the imbalance between population, territory and resources to persist. The Government had given unprecedented support to the population policy. For the first time, the President of the Republic himself had chaired the quarterly meetings to assess demographic policy and related programmes. Similarly, the funds allocated to that sector had increased and greater private sector participation was encouraged. Consequently, the family planning budget had reached almost $40 million in 1990.

8. Particular attention was being given to family planning, obstetrics and sex education. The demographic education and education programmes for women as well as those programmes on internal and international migration had been expanded and projects had been started for developing intermediate towns as well as for environmental measures; the most important measure undertaken, however, was the decentralization of the national population programme in order to assist States and municipalities in obtaining not only political support but also the financial resources needed for its execution.

9. Mexico supported the proposals that other United Nations agencies should be involved and felt that it was necessary for the agencies accredited to a country to pool their resources and join other private non-governmental organizations in support of national priorities. Lastly, Mexico hoped that, without detriment to the resources allocated to developing countries, special assistance could be given to Governments which increased their budgets and embarked on measures in the priority areas mentioned in part II of document DP/1990/45.

10. Mr. GHAZI (International Labour Organisation) said that he would confine his remarks to the evaluation report and thus respond in particular to the representative of Switzerland. The purpose of the joint ILO/UNFPA evaluation activities was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the programmes. On the basis of the recommendations made as a result of those evaluations, ILO had implemented certain measures to strengthen the joint UNFPA/ILO programme: many of the projects executed by ILO were multidisciplinary and rather complex and therefore, a new post of interregional adviser on project design and evaluation had been established and funded by ILO; an additional post of programme officer, also funded by ILO had been created in the Population Co-ordinator's Office, in collaboration with the relevant UNFPA branches, the job description of the information, education and communication (IEC) expert had been substantially revised. ILO had also drawn on its own resources to create an additional post of IEC documentalist, lastly, various measures had been undertaken to integrate population concerns into major relevant operational programmes in a systematic manner.

11. The need for brevity in document DP/1990/49 might have put certain remarks somewhat out of context. For example, the reference in paragraph 47 to the over-burdening of staff with administrative responsibilities could be rather misleading, because the professional staff was not involved in

day-to-day administration. The problem was one of limited staff both at Headquarters and in the field, especially of regional advisors, in view of the increase in countries with projects and the number of countries interested in having projects.

12. Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), replying to comments made by delegations during the debate on item 6, expressed the satisfaction and gratitude of all UNFPA staff for the support and constructive suggestions voiced concerning the work of the Fund and said that she deeply appreciated the concern expressed by numerous delegations about the need to increase significantly resources and funding for population programmes worldwide. Regarding documentation, she appreciated the many positive statements about the documentation UNFPA had prepared for the present session and recalled that Governing Council decision 89/46 A, paragraph 27, had requested it to submit, in addition to the regular annual and periodic reports, no more than two special reports per session; however, six special reports had already been requested for the thirty-eighth session of the Council.

13. She recalled the major points raised during the debate on the Amsterdam Declaration: (a) the extension of family-planning information and services; (b) the integration of family-planning programmes in basic health services; (c) the continuing need to broaden public awareness of population issues and their links to environmental and development issues; (d) the importance of socio-cultural research in designing and implementing programmes suited to local conditons; (e) the need for training in a variety of programmatic and management skills in order to make population programmes more effective; (f) the empowerment of women and their increasing participation in the management of social and economic programmes; (g) the strengthening of data collection and analysis capabilities at the country level; and (h) the need to double the resources available from both domestic and international sources for population programmes by the end of the century.

14. Responding to a query made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, she pointed out that at present two countries - India and China - alone accounted for more than 60 per cent of total domestic spending on population. In both those cases, resources from international sources constituted a relatively small part of total spending. Although it was desirable that domestic spending on population programmes should increase in the future in many developing countries, the bulk of sub-Saharan African countries and other least developed countries would find it extremely difficult to raise the additional resources needed in the face of the debt crises, structural adjustment programmes and bleak prospects for economic growth in the 1990s. Consequently, the Fund had projected that, in the coming decade, domestic resources would increase in volume but not in percentage. The Fund realized that it was necessary to maintain the momentum generated by the Amsterdam Forum through immediate follow-up on all those points. To that end, work on various measures had been started: (a) reformulation and clarification, where necessary, of the Fund's major policy guidelines; (b) support for research and training; (c) review of ongoing programmes through the field offices with a view to integrating the goals and objectives of the Amsterdam Declaration; (d) assistance to Governments in formulating strategic planning goals and mechanisms in consonance with priorities and programme approaches of national development plans; and (e) increasing co-operation with other United Nations and with non-governmental organizations. Those issues were dealt with in more detail in document DP/1990/44 and in the supplementary information paper distributed on the previous day.

15. In reply to the question raised by the representative of the Netherlands concerning the need for increased emphasis on maternal care, she noted that that area had been relatively neglected in many countries. The Safe Motherhood Initiative jointly sponsored by WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Population Council, had been specifically set up to address that problem, especially since maternal care offered a very good entry point for family planning.

16. She noted with satisfaction that Brazil had welcomed many of the suggestions made in document DP/1990/44 and was gratified that that country would emphasize population issues in the preparations for the 1992 Environment Conference.

17. She noted that the 1990 State of World Population Report had been favourably commented upon by numerous delegations. The report had been translated into 18 other languages, besides the working languages of the Fund, and had received extensive media coverage in many countries around the world. That had undoubtedly helped to focus attention on pressing population issues. The report should be seen as a continuation of the Amsterdam Forum. She shared the view expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom that all staff of aid agencies should be made aware of population issues.

18. Both developed and developing countries had strongly endorsed the need for increased resources for population programmes. It was extremely encouraging that many countries had specifically endorsed the target set in the Amsterdam Declaration of doubling the resources for population by the year 2000. In that connection, she thanked the Government of Denmark for having indicated that it would increase its financial resources to UNFPA. She agreed with the views expressed, notably by Norway and Sweden, that there was a need to increase population resources from Official Development Assistance and for greater burden sharing it was imperative to have a larger number of donors if the goal of $9 billion was to be attained. As mentioned by the delegates of Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, it was also of the utmost importance for the recipient countries to increase their share of resource flows; the EEC and the regional banks should also increase their contributions. The delegation of Belgium had suggested that special meetings should be held to improve co-ordination and financing and she was happy to state that the Fund was already promoting such meetings, for example, under the African Census Programme. She entirely supported the representative of Switzerland's stress on the need to give greater attention to fields that were complementary to population programmes.

19. She observed that virtually all delegations had commented on the matter of co-ordination and had recognized the need for further strengthening existing efforts at national and international levels. She fully agreed with the many views expressed about the importance of national level co-ordination and of the lead role of Governments in that regard. The donor community could assist Governments in building up their co-ordinating capacity and, as several delegations had suggested, UNFPA could play a role in providing such assistance. Co-ordination at the regional and global levels should also be improved and that could be done within existing frameworks. There too, several delegations had stressed the potential role of UNFPA. She also thought that co-ordination should be focused on specific activities and she was pleased to note that delegations who had spoken on that topic broadly

shared the views of the Fund on the promotion of exchanges of information and co-ordination. She would also appreciate the advice of delegations on priorities among the areas suggested.

20. She welcomed the proposal by the delegation of Denmark, which had been endorsed by several others, for a joint UNICEF/UNFPA report on co-ordination efforts at the field level. She again stressed the fact that the Fund had already taken many steps towards more co-ordinated programming.

21. She was gratified by the strong support expressed by so many delegations for the integration of population variables in development strategies. She said that the Fund, jointly with the Population Division of the United Nations, had carried out a joint study which had led to the publication of a manual.

22. The Fund had long subscribed to the view that women had to play a decisive role if the population and development goals were to be achieved. The Fund was striving to help Governments to take their own initiatives to promote the different roles of women in society. Education was crucial in improving the status of women and the Fund worked in close co-operation with WHO, the World Bank and UNICEF in that area. It also co-operated with many United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to have women's place in development recognized. It was allocating an increasing proportion of its resources to activities designed to enhance the role of and improve the status of women. All UNFPA evaluations would, in future, assess the degree to which women had been taken into consideration as both participants and beneficiaries in programmes and projects. The Fund was also preparing a thorough study of the implementation of the strategy to strengthen its capacity to deal with problems concerning women, population and development, to be submitted to the thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council.

23. She welcomed the interest expressed by some delegations in socio-cultural research and said that the Fund would continue to give the subject priority attention. A proper understanding of the socio-cultural context was fundamental in order to design programmes suited to needs and it was necessary first of all to identify the capacity for research in that area in developing countries. As the delegation of Switzerland he said, research should be planned in such a way as to take into consideration the factors that related to the effectiveness of programmes. To that end, the Fund had convened an expert meeting to identify the priority areas and the approaches to be utilized. All the projects of the Fund, as of now, included socio-cultural research when the data and knowledge bases were inadequate.

24. She said that the collaboration of the Fund with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS had resulted in the elaboration of a series of guidelines geared to facilitating the formulation and implementation of specific projects in countries, the systematic participation of the Fund in meetings of interested parties to examine the medium-term plans and options for UNFPA support, as well as the identification, formulation and implementation of AIDS-related activities within the framework of the maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) programmes and information, education and communication (IEC) programmes. In the second phase, UNFPA would take part in specific projects in the most affected developing countries, utilizing the guidelines formulated during the first phase. Field staff would continue to participate actively in discussions with Governments to ensure integration of activities

and identification of opportunities for assistance. The Fund also gave support to the United Nations Population Division for a study on the demographic impact of AIDS.

25. A number of delegations had stressed the importance of new issues such as ageing and the population structure as well as international migration. UNFPA had sponsored a number of activities in those areas.

26. She said that Mr. van Arendonk would reply in detail to the comments made on the periodic report on evaluaiton (DP/1990/49). She noted that one of the central aims of the new programme review and strategy development exercises was to increase the utilization of evaluation results. Replying to the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, she said that countries selected were those that were at the stage of a new country programme, rather than a selection based on substantive criteria. In future, the countries giving rise to such evaluatons would be priority countries.

27. The Fund shared the view of a number of delegations that staff increases should in future be foreseen largely in the field. It would be useful to determine in which country such additional posts would be useful, but methodologically, the exercise was a complicated one. The Fund might contact a number of countries with the request to share their relevant experience with it.

28. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) paid a tribute to the excellent work done by UNFPA under Mrs. Sadik. The results were evident in all areas and a number of countries were beginning to reap the fruit of those efforts. The scientific nature of the Fund's activities came out in the report on evaluation. It was interesting and encouraging to note the importance and priority given by UNFPA to evaluation exercises. A data base established on scientific criteria and a follow-up system would enable such evaluations to be made on the basis of established criteria, which would simplify the subsequent distribution of posts and budget preparation.

29. Evaluation was an important step in any organization or administration and its methodology should be developed with the greatest care. Experience showed in fact that proper evaluation of projects made it possible to avoid wasting time and money.

30. He hoped that the periodic report on evaluation would be translated into all the official languages.

31. Mrs. PRADEL (Federal Republic of Germany) shared the views expressed by the delegation of France concerning the evaluation of population and development planning activities, and took note of the comments made in that regard by the Executive Director. The conclusions of the independent in-depth evaluations indicated that, so far, UNFPA had not found the right approach to the question of integrating those activities. The poor results recorded in that area were due largely to the lack of interest shown by Governments in such integration, that was hardly surprising since the idea was very ill defined. It appeared that UNFPA had waited for countries to define the methodology to be used and the key operational concepts in that area. In future, it should, specify its methods and ideas even in it had to alter them in order to take into account the individual features in the national situation. She noted with satisfaction that, according to Mrs. Sadik, UNFPA had already taken steps in that direction.

32. Instead of trying to elaborate a single comprehensive plan of activities for population and development, UNFPA should seek to identify the key sectors in each country - for example, health, education, income-generating activities - where integrated activities would contribute most to achieving demographic targets. If it did not have a much more pratical an operational approach to population and development questions or UNFPA might allocate substantial resources to inefficient activities, to the detriment of other essential ones, such as maternal and child health and family planning or information, education and communication.

33. Mrs. KEPPENS (Belgium) referring to paragraphs 5 and 16 of document DP/1990/49, asked what measures the Executive Director planned to take to improve the quality of the built-in evaluations and improve access to the results of internal evaluations. Regarding the statement that those undertaking the evaluations "have had little or no training in evaluation methodology" (para. 6), she asked what specific measures would be taken to rectify the situation. With respect to independent evaluations, she requested further details about the programme review and strategy development system which apparently did not include country programmes. She stressed the importance of evaluation, by independent sources, of programmes and even projects in the specific context of each country. Lastly, she asked what criteria were used by UNFPA in choosing the topics for evaluation.

34. Mr. ELGHAOUTH (Mauritania), referring to the evaluation of the WHO/Regional Office for Africa intercountry programme, said that he was pleased with the success achieved by the Harare sub-regional team and asked for further information regarding the shortcomings of the Bamako team. The national quota system for recruitment imposed by WHO appeared to undermine its efficiency and he asked whether such a measure meant that the region was suffering from a permanent shortage of competent experts suitable for recruitment by the African Office. He asked how things stood with the trainig programme set up by UNFPA to correct the shortcomings which persisted in that area, in Africa and elsewhere. He also asked for the report of the evaluation mission and inquired what measures had been taken to rectify that situation.

35. Lastly, he expressed surprise that in virtually all UNFPA documents submitted in 1990, reference was invariably made to sub-Saharan Africa. That term did not correspond to the facts and failed to reflect the unity of the African continent, it should therefore not be used by United Nations agencies.

36. Mr. VAN ARENDONK (Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA) replying to all the questions asked by the representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and Switzerland, said that the system of referring internal evaluations to Headquarters was not yet complete because it was a relatively new activity. In fact, the field staff should be made aware of the importance of transmitting evaluation reports because of the lessons to be learned. UNFPA had conducted training for country directors and programme officers on monitoring and evaluation guidelines, procedures and actual experiences as an integral part of the programming cycle. Specific training on the subject was being planned for Headquarters and field staff. In addition, the Project Review Committee was gradually expanding its consideration of the internal evaluation reports as a way to focus increased attention on the monitoring of projects.

37. With regard to the lessons learned from the evaluations, UNFPA planned to transmit its findings in several ways to Headquarters and field staff as well as to agencies. The sending of circulars and programme advisory notes also seemed to be very effective.

38. In future, all projects would be subject to evaluation, although some might only need self-evaluation. The need for more elaborate evaluation would be addressed when the project was formulated and confirmed at the time of the tripartite review meetings. He took note of the fact that the delegations of the United States and of other countries wished to receive regular evaluation reports and analyses of the data-base.

39. The themes for comparative evaluation were identified during the annual consultations between the Technical and Evaluation Division and the Geographical Divisions. The schedule for those evaluations was formulated in such a way that the results were made available in time for decisions to be taken.

40. Generally speaking, at present, evaluations were utilized to confirm or, if necessary, modify projects and programme formulation and policy guidelines. The Fund was trying to include the evaluations in the framework of the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD), the ultimate goal of which was to formulate an overall strategy for national population programmes with the respective Governments.

41. With respect to the insufficient integration of population activities into development plans commented on by the representatives of Norway, Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, the main problems encountered stemmed from the difficulty of linking the research programmes and their results to the process of development planning itself. The integration of population and development activities was a completely new area - even the major universities did not give courses on the subject - and therefore, UNFPA had undertaken three years ago a training programme designed specifically to formulate the appropriate methodology and concepts. The area was such a new one that it was very important to conduct activities in the field, in order to obtain empirical data.

42. With respect to the suggestion by the United States delegation that surveys on the health of the population should be used for evaluation purposes, he said that data of that kind did not necessarily render an account of the effectiveness of UNFPA programmes because they concerned an entire national programme.

43. As to the usefulness of the evaluations, referred to by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States, he said that such an exercise was justified, because the Fund and its programme officers had easy access to its results and used them, and could thus ensure that the shortcomings observed had been corrected.

44. In reply to a question from the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, he explained that self-evaluation did not necessarily exclude an independent evaluation. However, the value of self-evaluation was to induce project leaders to accept the possibility of failure, in order to improve the implementation of activities.

45. The members of the Governing Council had heard comments by different agencies - WHO, FAO and ILO - on the evaluations. Some members had raised a problem of co-ordination between the WHO headquarters and the Regional Office for Africa. In fact, it seemed that WHO gave very considerable support to all its Regional Offices and that the latter may have misapplied the guidelines and the results of the research transmitted to it. Like FAO and ILO, UNFPA considered that provision should be made for other regional advisers and had even made an observation to that effect in connection with the report on support costs. He proposed that the representative of Mauritania should revert to the issue he had brought up in respect of the Bamako sub-regional team when the regional and country programmes were reviewed, adding that the problem was not peculiar to Africa and should be settled bilaterally. He had no authority to decide on whether the expression "sub-Saharan Africa" should be retained or changed.

46. He informed the representative of Belgium that UNFPA was endeavouring, by means of special training, to impress upon its field staff the importance of internal evaluations, evaluation methods and the communication of results. He hoped, in that way, to improve both the quality of the reports as a whole and to add to the knowledge of methodology. The PRSD did not exclude the possibility of making independent evaluations of country programmes where necessary. In respect of the criteria to be used in selecting a topic for comparative evaluation, he explained that account was taken of the decisions to be made, the programmes to be implemented or any new problems which emerged.

47. He assured the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that the report would also be published in Arabic. He hoped also that he had answered all the questions raised.

(d) FUTURE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (DP/1990/47 and 48)

48. Mr. KUNUGI (Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA), introducing the report on the work plan for 1991-1994 and the request for approval authority (DP/1990/47), said that, as far as programmed resource utilization for 1989 was concerned, total project expenditures in 1989 had been $157.4 million, while the total programme resources made available were $177.2 million, yielding a resource utilization rate of 88.8 per cent. Furthermore, the year-end allocation had been $194.2 million, which resulted in the traditional budget expenditure rate of 81 per cent. In 1989, UNFPA had spent $27.6 million more on programme activities than in 1988, an increase of 21.3 per cent. Expenditures for country projects in sub-Saharan Africa had increased by around 26 per cent compared with 1988, to $29.3 million in 1989, whereas the intercountry projects had risen to $9.8 million, an increase of approximately 27 per cent. Estimated expenditures in 1989 for priority countries had been $78.1 million or 74.6 per cent of the total expenditures for country activities. That rate was the highest ever recorded in recent years. The programme expenditures level approved by the Governing Council for 1990 had been $156.2 million; together with the carry-forwards of resources of $8.5 million, the revised total programmable resources for 1990 was thus $164.7 million.

49. The projected income for the 1991-1994 work plan had been calculated in terms of an average increase of 9.5 per cent per annum for the period under review, which took into account a recent trend to increase income (11.4 per cent in 1987, 14.1 per cent in 1988 and 4 per cent in 1989), and

also because the main donor countries had adopted the Amsterdam Declaration and the idea of increasing resources for population activities. On the other hand, operational costs should increase by an annual average of only 6 per cent during the period 1991-1994, in keeping with the wish expressed by several countries to see the Fund make more effective use of the limited resources at its disposal. In accordance with paragraph 16 of Council decision 89/49, which had set the level of the operational reserve at $45 million with effect from 1989, no additions to that reserve were planned for 1991-1993. However, subject to Council approval when the level of the operational reserve was reviewed, the Fund proposed to increase the level by $5 million in 1994 to $50 million. Thus, the new programmable resources, as shown in table H, were estimated at $775.8 million with the following breakdown: $166.7 million in 1991; $184.5 million in 1992; $204 million in 1993; and $220.6 million in 1994. To that amount would be added the estimated carry-forwards of $8.5 million from 1990 to 1991. Assuming total programmable resources of $784.3 million for the period, the Fund proposed to increase the resource allocation for country activities from $548.5 million for 1990-1993 to $580.4 million for 1991-1994 (table I). Resources allocated for regional and interregional activities were expected to show a slight decline compared to the previous work plan. He noted with satisfaction that some representatives, from the main donor countries in particular, had given global approval for planning resources in the manner set out in the document under consideration.

50. Concerning country programme resources (table J) the Fund proposed again to increase its support for sub-Saharan Africa to $190.4 million or 32.8 per cent of the total country programme resources during the period 1991-1994. The resources allocated for Asia and the Pacific would increase to $248 million (42.7 per cent of the total), in order to make allowance for the large number of priority countries in that region, while the two other regions - the Arab States and Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean - would continue to receive a comparable share of the programmable resources, in other words, $71 million each. Concerning intercountry programme resources as shown in table L, sub-Saharan Africa would receive the largest share, namely $49.1 million or 24.1 per cent. The other regions would continue to receive resources at approximately the same percentage level as during the period 1990-1993.

51. In accordance with Governing Council decision 89/46 B, UNFPA was requesting approval for 1991 of an expenditure level in the amount of $166.7 million, or an increase of $10.5 million over the amount approved for 1990 (table M). He recalled that the Fund set a programme ceiling in order to monitor the level of allocations and thus achieve a maximum resource utilization level, while maintaining prudent financial control. In order to have the necessary flexibility to meet new demands, every year UNFPA updated its work plan, which was established on a rolling plan basis.

52. The Council had before it statistics on the status of financial implementation of Governing Council-approved UNFPA programmes and projects (DP/1990/48). In 1989, 19 country programmes had been completed; the delivery rate of those programmes was 94.4 per cent on average, compared with 85.3 per cent for the regional and country programmes completed in 1988. Although subject to further evaluation, the data seemed to indicate the increasing capacity of developing countries to absorb more resources and the enhanced programming capacity of UNFPA, working in collaboration with the recipient Governments and executing agencies.

53. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) noted with satisfaction that the UNFPA work plan for 1991-1994 (DP/1990/47) and the statistics concerning the status of financial implementation of resources allocated to country programmes and projects (DP/1990/48) showed that the Fund was working actively to promote family planning as well as education, training and communication, to enhance the role of women in development or to advance technical training. He also endorsed the efforts being made to mobilize a greater volume of resources in future, subject always to the Fund ensuring that the real value of income was protected from the exchange rate fluctuations of certain major currencies.

54. The new country programmes were extremely important and he hoped, in particular, that UNFPA would give continued attention to those concerning countries in the Arab region and that it would strive to intensify its co-operation with those countries.

55. The Fund should also co-ordinate its activities as much as possible with UNICEF, FAO and other agencies. He asked what criteria were used by the Fund, in executing its work plan, to avoid any duplication of expenditure and activities with Governments either bilaterally or multilaterally.

56. Mr. ELGHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that he endorsed the UNFPA recommendation (DP/1990/47, para. 35) on resource planning, the new programme expenditure level and the estimates of the new programmable resources for the period 1991-1994. On the whole, he supported the guidelines selected by the Fund for its work plan and especially the high priority given to Africa. In that connection, he said that the representative of the United Kingdom need not have misgivings about the African countries' inadequate resource "absorption capacity". The very idea of "absorption capacity" should no longer be taken into account.

57. The breakdown by substantive area of the expenses incurred from 1986 to 1989 (DP/1990/47, table C) seemed to indicate a slight decline in the proportion allocated for family planning in the total expenditures. He hoped that that was because the figures were only provisional.

58. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) observed that, in the statistics transmitted to the Council concerning the status of UNFPA resources allocated to country programmes and projects (DP/1990/48), multi-bilateral resources were not always integrated. The programmes or projects financed by funds of multi-bilateral origin did not receive the Council's endorsement in the usual conditions. In the interest of clarity and in order to have a table which faithfully reflected the implementation of programmes, as approved by the Council it would be preferable to show multi-bilateral programmes or projects separately.

59. The statistics showed that the Fund's more forceful action in Africa, in conformity with the strategy adopted for the sub-Saharan region, was already yielding results, if only in respect of the volume of resources collected. The utilization rate of those resources, however, was extremely variable and he asked whether the Fund was contemplating any additional measures to try to increase the level where it was particularly low.

60. During the period 1983-1989, the resource delivery rate was set at an average of 92.8 per cent which was perfectly satisfactory; in some countries, however, it was only 19 per cent whereas in others it exceeded 100 per cent.

He asked what lessons had the Fund learned from such sizeable differences. In particular he would like to know why the rate had been especially low in the case of two or three country programmes approved for Asia in 1985. It was a fact, however, that the increase in the rate was unprecedented. He asked whether the Fund could offer an explanation of that increase.

61. In respect of the work plan for 1991-1994 (DP/1990/47), he wished to state once again that it would have been better to simplify the format in order to enable a comparison to be made between the results obtained and what had been envisaged three years earlier. In respect of the projections concerning future income, his delegation felt that an increase of 9.5 per cent was optimistic, but would accept them because they could be reviewed every year. It noted, furthermore, that since priority was being given to action in Africa, the allocation of a larger share to the African continent of total programmable resources would be justified, but that was not really the case. Intercountry activities should not, in its opinion, absorb more than 25 to 26 per cent of total resources in order to allow national activities to receive a larger volume of resources.

62. His delegation would like the volume of resources earmarked for priority countries to match the stated target. However, the resources actually transferred to those countries were only 70 per cent of the total, whereas the Council had wanted a figure of 80 per cent. He asked whether the Fund intended to bridge that gap, and how.

63. Mr. SKJØNSBERG (Norway) noted that UNFPA's work plan for 1991-1994 referred only to general resources. As they had constituted so far more than 95 per cent of the Fund's total resources, he could accept that approach. The income projections were based on an extrapolation of the recent increase in the resource base. Again, Norway supported the approach, although it might be unduly optimistic and was sensitive to exchange rate fluctuations. Hopefully, the United States Government would soon decide to contribute again to UNFPA and it would then be possible to revise income estimates upwards.

64. His Government fully supported the plans for utilizing the new programmable resources, and it could therefore support the recommendations made to the Council, including the proposals concerning planning programme resource utilization.

65. In view of UNFPA's review and assessment exercise and the results of the Amsterdam Forum, the work plan should perhaps be more policy-oriented, indicating better UNFPA's future priorities and goals. Member States could thus discuss UNFPA's strategy on the basis of rolling four-year work plans.

66. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) considered that UNFPA was achieving extremely good results in securing an average available resource utilization rate of close to 80 per cent. His delegation therefore supported the work plan submitted for 1991-1994 which, in its opinion, gave due emphasis to aid to Africa and in particular, the sub-Saharan region, as well as to a number of vital questions, such as enhancing the role of women in development. His delegation supported the recommendation on resource planning, the new level of programme costs and the volume of new programmable resources for the period under consideration.

67. Ms. CARTER (United States of America) commended UNFPA for the emphasis it placed on new initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa, in its work plan for 1991-1994 (DP/1990/47) and for its planned concentration of resources at the country level, absorbing 74 per cent of programmable resources during that period, compared to 74 per cent in 1989. Those priorities corresponded to those set by the United States for its activities during the period and conformed on the whole to the broad guidelines given by the Council. Her delegation asked whether the assumption of an annual increase of 6 per cent in operational costs reflected the actual rate recorded in recent years.

68. Table 6 of document DP/1990/47 revealed a sizeable decline in the expenditures allocated to family planning programmes even after taking into account IEC designed to improve the status of women; the latter were support activities crucial for the success of those programmes. Such a reduction ran counter to the rapidly increasing unmet demand for family planning services around the world. Furthermore, in the 13 new proposed country programmes, the share of resources allocated to family planning/IEC were cut back still further. Participants in recent meetings of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and the Amsterdam Forum had asked for a substantial increase in the resources allocated for family planning services. Her delegation requested UNFPA to review its work plan along those lines.

69. Similarly, she noted that in the list of UNFPA priorities, no mention was made of plans to provide assistance to developing countries in acquiring contraceptive commodities. That was a critical issue which must be addressed by the major donor countries without delay. Her delegation would appreciate further comment by UNFPA on its plans in that key area.

70. According to table C, in 1989 there had been an almost total absence of activities related to the implementation of policies. Yet the experience of the United States was that there was an increasingly heavy demand from developing countries for assistance in that area. The United States of America might be able to co-operate with UNFPA in executing an AID project and the Fund should inform the Council how it could strengthen its future work in that area.

71. Mr. SMALLENBROEK (Netherlands) noted with satisfaction that UNFPA's income had risen again in 1989 and that the Fund had been able to expend almost 85 per cent of its programme resources. However, the projected annual increase in income of 9 per cent was perhaps over-optimistic and his delegation urged the Fund to exercise caution.

72. It was also perhaps too ambitious to anticipate that by 1993 80 per cent of the resources earmarked for country allocations would be assigned to priority countries. While that figure was indeed a target, the Fund should ensure that resources were allocated to the countries most in need of international assistance to implement population policies. However, the percentage of allocations to priority countries had scarcely risen in recent years. He would like to know what action would be taken by the Fund to ensure that 80 per cent of the resources for country programmes were indeed allocated to priority countries in 1993.

73. Mrs. PRADEL (Federal Republic of Germany) also thought that UNFPA results for 1988-1989 in respect of the utilization rate of available resources were satisfactory. At first sight, the breakdown of expenditures between country activities and intercountry activities was also satisfactory. However, she would like more information on the quality of intercountry projects and urged the Fund to extend systematic evaluations to intercountry projects.

74. The total volume of expenditures had risen by over 15 per cent in 1989 and it was regrettable that the expenditure earmarked for family planning had remained virtually unchanged. Expenditures on family planning and complementary IEC-related activities had increased by only 7 per cent. In fact, the Fund should concentrate on those two areas so as to meet the threats so clearly described in the Amsterdam Declaration. On the other hand, it was satisfying to note that the expenditures allocated for special programmes had increased because it showed that the Fund was giving increasing attention to the link between issues concerning women, population and development.

75. Basic data collection, population dynamics and formulation and evaluation of population policies accounted for 30 per cent of total expenditures, which was considerable. She had a number of questions on that score. What was the volume of research carried out in those areas? What criteria did the Fund use in responding to requests for aid for research projects? What percentage of expenditures in those areas was allocated to the topic of "Population and development"?

76. Her delegation would also like to know why the substantive area entitled "implementation of policies" had been virtually neglected in 1989.

77. The breakdown of expenditure into substantive areas for the period 1986-1989 should also be undertaken for the period 1991-1994. That would make it possible to ascertain whether the work plan was giving considerably more importance to family planning.

78. In table D, the work plan also included a breakdown of the expenditure incurred during the period 1986-1989 under the heading of national activities by functional category. She would like to have some explanations about the heading "Training", whether the term covered meetings and how the Fund ascertained that meetings included a training component.

79. It was interesting to see how expenditures were divided between priority countries and non-priority countries (table F), but there again the same breakdown should be established in the 1991-1994 work plan.

80. With regard to the work plan and the request for programme approval authority, in her view, the figures submitted were cautious and were therefore satisfactory. Nevertheless, the reservations that she had expressed in 1989 about the utilization of resources still held good for the period 1991-1994. In respect of the regional distribution of expenditures, the Federal Republic of Germany would have liked Africa to receive a larger share of total resources. In any case, future work plans should take more specifically into account the needs of priority regions.

81. Estimates for resource carry-overs from 1989 to 1991 suggested that the Fund was making its expenditures policy more dynamic. The Federal Republic of Germany welcomed the change, but felt that the quality of the programmes should not in any way be undermined by the increase in the resource utilization rate.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.